

Inside: Lightfoot's Legend/Tragedy on the way to Dover

Maclean's

MARCH 16, 1987

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

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THE DEATH VOTE

The Debate over
Capital Punishment

A Maclean's Survey:
Where the MPs Stand



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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

MARCH 30, 1987 VOL. 100 NO. 11

COVER

The death penalty vote

It is the return of an old and emotion-charged dilemma. As Parliament prepares to debate whether to restore the death penalty, activists on both sides of the theory issue are competing for public opinion. Last week a Maclean's survey of 875 showed that they are almost certain to vote in favor of a return to capital punishment. —Page 8

COVER ART BY JUDY FORD



Nancy and the 'wimp' factor

As Ronald Reagan battled to reconfirmability in the wake of the Iran arms scandal, his wife Nancy was under fire for making him appear helpless. —Page 30



Clever weather clowns

They are the smart jokers of television journalism—weather forecasters who deliver predictions liberally sprinkled with jokes, puns, and comic routines. —Page 45



The Lightfoot legend

Gordie Lightfoot's epic victories and grade ballads are national treasures. Now, with a major tour under way, Lightfoot is building on his own legendary status. —Page 52



An Expo season without stars

The mood at the Montreal Expo training camp was gloomy last week, as the team contemplated a season without Tim Lincecum and Andre Dawson. —Page 48

CONTENTS

Featuring	7
Business/Economy	36
Canada/Over	3
Editorial	2
Film	37
Forthrightly	60
Liters	4
Music	53
News	49
Obituary	59
Passages	1
People	34
Sports	48
Transportation	55
Weather	44
World	26



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Wasting time in Parliament

"A political misfire?" (*Canada/Cover*, Feb. 2) Really put the Andre Bouchette issue into perspective. I have not supported the Progressive Conservative party since I was old enough to vote, but I feel that Brian Mulroney has handled this affair very well. I find it hard to understand why Ed Broadbent and John Turner insist on making this a major issue in Parliament. The issue is more than capable of handling an investigation. It is a waste of time that could be spent on more important issues, such as unemployment, agriculture and others.

—MARCK GAGNON,
Monterey, Sask.

Hockey fiasco

Regarding "A hockey fight that cost a medal" (*Sports*, Jan. 15), I wonder if the Canadian team and coaching staff have considered the price of participating in an overrated, free-for-all with the Soviet players? At no time have any of those previously ignored with the opportunity to represent their country in world-class hockey events displayed anything less than exemplary behavior. None of those teams resorted to inventing lame excuses such as "They started it" to justify involvement in bench-clearing brawls. The entire fiasco undoubtedly has left a great many Canadians thoroughly embarrassed by the conduct of our junior team. A formal apology to the International Ice Hockey Federation and to Canadians as a whole is in order. Whether such indications over materialize remains to be seen.

—JENNIFER STANLEY,
Victoria

Heroes and villains

I second Allan Pechteringham's nomination of Joe Rauh, the civil-rightist lawyer fighting to get compensation for war Canadians who were subjects in Government brainwashing experiments at McGill University ("Narcissistic hero for 1967," *Column*, Jan. 10). It is a crime for the American government to prac-

tise such experiments. As well, it is a crime for our own government to play dumb through it all. —LANCE WYNNER,
Ploverville, N.B.

Standing up for Cleveland

In your review of *Light of Day* ("Reckless redemption," *Cover*, Feb. 9), you refer to the city of Cleveland, Ohio, as "an industrial wasteland" and "a city almost synonymous with social decay." Obviously you have not been to Cleveland recently. Mind you, it still has its bad areas—all right. But in my visits in the past two years, I have found a city very much alive.

—A.B. JAMESON
Windsor, Ont.

Zundel retried

It was with disbelief and disappointment that I read that there is to be a retrial for Ernst Zundel (*Passages*, Feb. 3). There is a point at which upholding the law only for the law's sake becomes merely an academic exercise to test the minds of lawyers and constitutionalists. Who will benefit from a retrial? Not the taxpayers. It will cost thousands of our dollars, and Zundel will get millions of dollars worth of free publicity. Can the law justify the mental anguish of any community? —JILLIE TUCK,
Ottawa

Stars, stripes and maple leaves

In *Passages* on Feb. 9 you mentioned Col. Sheila Hightower's promotion to the rank of brigadier-general. It was a great day for women and also for those in the Armed Forces. There is only one slight mistake. You write, "...the first woman to join the one-star rank." General officers in Canada wear maple leaves and not stars (as the Americans do) on their shoulder boards.

—DENNIS M. GARDNER,
Ottawa

Letters are edited and may be condensed. Writers should supply name, address and telephone number. Mail correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, Reader's Magazine, Macmillan House, 440, 777 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5R 1A7.

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FOLLOW-UP

Sharing one girl's hope

The small envelope from Italy that arrived at the small agency in Me, Ohio contained only an American \$100 bill and an assigned note that said "It's worth while Continue." The letter—addressed to the Samantha Smith Foundation—is one of thousands sent since the 10-year-old, known around the world for her 1983 visit to the Soviet Union, died in the crash of a small plane in August, 1985. Launched by Samantha's mother, Jane, the foundation has received \$250,000 from supporters across the United States. Its goal, explained 48-year-old Jane Smith, is "to foster international understanding in the spirit of Samantha."

In November, 1982, Samantha, a Grade 5 student in Manchester, Me., wrote to then-Soviet leader Yuri Andropov asking him whether he intended a war with the United States. Many Americans hailed his invitation to Samantha and her parents to visit the USSR as an omen of peace—but others criticized it as a public-relations gesture. Reports two years later that Samantha and her father, Arthur, 45, had been killed saddened her many admirers. The foundation was born out of Jane Smith's determination to keep Samantha's cause alive. "We get letters from children and grandparents, from Republicans and Democrats," Smith said. "Often peace groups reach people who are concerned at their ages. It was important to reach these people."

Samantha Smith's legacy is evident around the world. Last December the first issue of the Samantha Smith Foundation magazine, featuring letters and articles from Soviet and American children about each other's lands, went to subscribers in 12 countries. Last year in Japan one school founded a Samantha Smith club. In the USSR, officials have issued a postage stamp in her honor and named a mountain and an orbiting asteroid after her. Her own book about the visit is in its second printing, and one plans a drama about her life. "I have mixed feelings about commercializing Samantha's story," Smith said. "But the Soviets are hoping for a peaceful future for their children, just as we are for our own. If we can remember that, I think we can negotiate our differences with greater success."

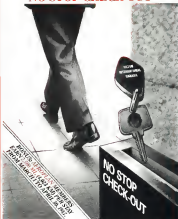
—JULIA KENNEDY

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FOLLOW-UP

A Canadian in Rome

The covered May, 1994, Vatican appointment was a surprise to some and a tribute to the scholarship of a little-known Canadian priest. When Father Leonard Boyle of Toronto's Residential Institute of Medieval Studies became the first non-European to take charge of the great Vatican library in Rome, he faced a formidable task. Two years later Boyle's organizational abilities, love of ecclesiastical history and chronological Irish humor have proven him well-equipped for an unusual mission. His goal, and that of his staff of 78, is to make the collection of more than 200,000 rare manuscripts, maps and first-edition book-bound books accessible by computer to scholars around the world by 1995. Declared Boyle, who in some cases is handling material catalogued only some before, in the 17th century: "I've made rather good progress for one who is not a professional librarian."

Indeed, the title of prefect at the Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana has given the 60-year-old Boyle new areas in which to apply his skills. An Oxford graduate, he is known for his expertise in paleography and codicology—the study of manuscript writing and of texts as artifacts. But for the Dominican priest, his role at the library—founded in the 15th century and housed in a palace near the Vatican Chapel—also makes a year-round opportunity to indulge a longtime passion. Since 1965 Boyle has assisted annually in the coronation of church rulers under Rome's historic San Giovanni Church, a subject on which he is an author and expert.

Boyle's time in Toronto remains strange. Born in County Down, Ireland, he came to the Pontifical Institute as a professor in 1961. He has outlined his intention to remain a Canadian citizen and still supervise graduate students in Toronto, where he will lecture next month to delegates at an international medieval symposium. But for those watching Boyle's rising star, his current position holds a special promise in this century, five out of six former Vatican librarians have become cardinals—and one of them went on to become Pope. Plus 31 in 1992. For Boyle, however, the rewards of a life of fascinating work are richest in the present. "I am enjoying it," said Boyle. "My work is my focus."

—ANN FLETCHER in Toronto

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Sporting Life

AN AMERICAN VIEW

A celluloid war of credibility

By Fred Bruning

In fiction-writing classes, students hear a good deal about stories that "ring true"—about the need to mould characters and situations that seem plausible to the audience. The last thing a writer wants is to have someone look away from the page and mutter, "Oh, give me a break. Betty Lee would never say that!" Failure to establish trust is a disaster of no small proportions and may indicate that the author best consider an alternative area of concentration—perhaps invent fresh characters growing out of insecurities or another of the lesser arts.

What brings to mind the phenomenon of "ringing true" is the Vietnam movie *Platoon*, which indeed resonates with such thunderous authenticity that we briefly expect chombers in the theatre lobby to chatter. The story advances with a formidable logic. Not a sequence seems out of place, not an event conceived. Pace is geared to the rhythm of war—the lighting and then the hours spent waiting in light spots. Characters are meticulously standard and, even when shocking, their behavior is credible.

Oliver Stone, the former fox soldier who wrote and directed *Platoon*, has created a work so overflowing with detail that, upon exiting, moviegoers may feel they had served a tour of duty too. For veterans, of course, the experience is that much more compelling. "It was like going back and forth into reality—in the movie and then in the field," said Clara Blandino of New York City. "I couldn't get myself together afterward. A good friend of mine, we had to carry him out. It's hard even now to talk about it."

Contrasting the war always has been difficult. The wear and destruction, the outrageous loss of young lives, the inestimable harm to the prestige of the United States—all that has been noted before and, easily, will be again. Americans know that we facilitated more than sons and husbands and brothers in the mud, that, in some way, innocence also got drawn under. What more is there to say?

But despite our reluctance, despite the familiar cry that we could have won the war if only the South in Washington would have allowed it, despite the confused rush of Americanist rhetoric, and despite, by the way, indications that the White House is itching for a showdown in Nicaragua—despite all the odds, *Platoon* is a spectacular success. Over six weekend earlier this year, it averaged the highest take of any new release, and now the film that Stone couldn't sell to Hollywood for a decade is a favorite for an Academy Award.

There is considerable discussion about whether *Platoon*'s list of statistics suggests that Americans use in some private way ready to confront the surreal ugliness of the war or if, on the other hand, time simply has removed the risks and allowed us to view the film objectively, as though it all had happened to someone else. It is possible, too, that some Americans are buying tickets because they heard *Platoon* was a rip-roaring good action flick—a Rambo-type diversion, far preferable to the grasp concepts beyond the first-grade level.

What seems certain is that, regardless of their reasons for attending, most who see the film will not soon

has way through the brush from one moment in his fight to another, hair matted, skin clammy, eyes a blur. What those young men endured is no longer just history. Now we know exactly how bad it was.

Coincidentally, so the Stone movie gained wide popularity, another controversial film began a run on prime-time television. For no fewer than 24 hours, the ABC network broadcast *America*, a drama dealing with life in the United States after a nonexistent takeover by the Soviet Union. The speculation is worth mentioning because, like *Platoon*, it touches upon a subject of great moment to American. Vietnam leaves our past, Moscow prevails our future.

As might have been expected, the television movie was not very good. The premise was weak—America, overrun without a shot being fired? And the protagonists were, for the most part, soap-operatic. Suspense, intrigue, surprise, all were in short supply. As foreign affairs columnist Fina Lewis of *The New York Times* observed, *America* was such a lame story that the commercials looked realistic by comparison.

Wells of argument and agitation preceded the run—across the network sought to defend itself against charges of bias, hatred, and various parties fretted about whether *America* would set back U.S.-Soviet relations. Eyes of focus in Moscow felt called upon to put their granules on the record. They couldn't have bothered. Although the show seemed to be aimed directly at the most volatile of minds in America, it appears to have affected just about nobody. Ratings were lower than the ABC brass had hoped, and it was revealed that President Ronald Reagan, hardly a disaster when it comes to questions of dramatic excellence, thought *America* tedious.

It has not been established, of course, that the viewers who found *America* uninteresting and dim-witted are the very persons who have been faking to have seen it. It is not unusual to see *Platoon*. We have not yet determined that the movie is on the verge of a cultural renaissance or a breakthrough in self-reflection. For now, though, if Americans have done nothing more than affirm Lewis's view that you can't shoot a movie at people all the time, that is entirely good enough.

Fred Bruning is a writer with *Newsday* in New York.



CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

THE DEATH VOTE

They are two wrenching visions of the justice of man's ultimate penalty. In Edmonton, still mourning the grisly death of his 16-year-old son Darryl in 1985, Gary Rosenfeld is bitterly aware that his murderer, Clifford Olson, remains alive in Ontario's Kingston Penitentiary. Rosenfeld's new campaign full time is to restore the death penalty. "Those who believe in capital punishment see justice derived from death, as eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," he declared last week. "That is justice." In Ottawa, soft-spoken United Church minister James Scott has devoted two years to a public education campaign to stop the return of the death penalty. "How can you balance the scales of justice with another broken body?" he asked. "It is wrong. You only generate a climate in which violence breeds."

LIFE: The debate has been joined. Almost 11 years after the abolition of the death penalty in Canada, and more than 34 years after the last hanging, Canadians are again embroiled in the agonizing argument about whether the state should take the life of those who take life. Under pressure from a pocket of right-wing backsliders, the Conservative government has introduced a motion to give approval in principle to restoring the death penalty. Next month members of Parliament will begin debate on that motion, culminating in a vote in June. Each MP will have 30 minutes to speak on the issue—and most of them will concern that right. The motion will likely pass. According to a Maclean's survey of 554 of the 275 MPs, 154 (48 per cent) now support restoration, 86 (35 per cent) oppose the motion, and 42 (16 per cent) are undecided (page 14). In in-

terest, a similar survey of 77 of 163 Senators showed that just 35 (49 per cent) support the motion, 49 (64 per cent) oppose it, and 13 (17 per cent) are undecided.

Those figures will almost certainly change as the debate develops. Two anti-capital-punishment coalitions, in-

Halifax "Christ said on the cross, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' That eliminates retribution for me."

These fundamental questions are not the usual stuff of Commonsense debates—and many MPs are keenly aware of the turbulence ahead. The controversial motion, introduced last month by Deputy Prime Minister Don Martin, supports "in principle" the restoration of the death penalty. It also calls for the creation of an all-party committee to determine where the state should sit and how. The spring debate will end with a vote "free vote"—members voting according to their consciences instead of party lines.

With it the motion passes, the 15-member committee will cross the country to select sponsors and then produce, within 90 days, draft legislation to amend the Criminal Code. That legislation must in turn pass through the House of Commons and then the Liberal-dominated Senate. The Senate almost

never defies the will of the Commonsense, in fact, it last rejected a Commonsense bill on March 27, 1967—the Dairy Industry Act of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King—in second reading. But some senators said that they regard capital punishment as a vital issue of conscience—and would have no choice but to vote against the bill. If the Senate defies the bill, the legislation could not be reintroduced in that session if the Senate approves the bill, it could become law by the fall of 1988.

That tortuous legislative route is a measure of the emotion surrounding the debate. In the Maclean's survey, 49 MPs said that they were uncomfortable or undecided on the issue. The number in that category increased because



A.C. politicians' forecast: when should mercy temper vengeance?

cluding the major churches, are launching campaigns to convince MPs of the righteousness of their cause. In turn, various groups are warning those lobbyists with anguished pleas for justice and revenge.

MERCY: Most proponents acknowledge that capital punishment is not a proven deterrent—although statistics can be interpreted to support either conclusion. Instead, the debate has focused increasingly on unanswerable questions: what is justice—before men and before God? And when should mercy temper vengeance? Said Val Davies, founder of Calgary's Citizens for Capital Punishment and Justice, "Vengeance is not a rusty sword." Converted political scientist George Grant is



A VOCAL OPPONENT

One of Canada's most successful criminal lawyers, Edward Greenpan is perhaps best-known for his controversial defence of notorious murderer Robert Niemetz. But Greenpan is also a strong opponent of capital punishment. Last week Maclean's Senior Writer Mary Joann interviewed Greenpan in his Toronto office.

Maclean's: Why do you oppose the death penalty?

Greenpan: For three main reasons.

One, I find it morally repugnant. In Stuart and Tudor times we had people boiled in oil. Clearly that would act as a better deterrent than hanging, but everyone today finds that morally unacceptable. All Bill Domm wants to do is find a more pleasant way of executing people. Secondly, the statistics show that it is simply no deterrent. In 1975, the last year we had the death penalty, there were 3,098 homicides per 100,000 people. In 1995 there were 2,765 homicides per 100,000 people. The homicide rate is more or less the same now as it was 19 years ago.

And finally, there is the possibility of a mistake. In our legal system, human error is inevitable. Usually, a mistake in sentencing can be reversed either completely or in part. This is not possible after an (irrevocable) capital has been executed.

Capital punishment is essentially different from all other penalties because it is ultimate, final and irrevocable. **Maclean's:** Proponents of capital punishment argue that murderers should pay with their lives for taking a life. **Greenpan:** Well, that is the old eye-for-an-eye formula. And that formula, as I understand it, is meant to be a modernizing concept thinking of retributive justice. We do not have down an axe-let's-hack. The message of the Bible is one of redemption and forgiveness—not vengeance. Looking somebody up for the rest of their life is the ultimate justice that a state should be able to impose.

Maclean's: Although, given some

polls show that about 70 per cent of Canadians favour the restoration of capital punishment.

Greenpan: Public opinion is often vindictive, retributive and bloodthirsty. Edward Burke made what I consider to be the most important statement about the role of a parliamentarian. He said on Nov. 3, 1775, to the House of Bristol, England: "Your representative owes you not his industry only but his judgment. And he betrays instead of serving you if he surrenders it to your

such long-standing supporters of capital punishment as Ontario MP Sinclair Stevens maintained that they have not yet decided how they will vote. In some cases, former death penalty proponents are reconsidering their stance. In a few cases, Maclean's put 40 MP in the "just" category despite that we're official undecided stance. Among them, Ontario Tory Gary Corbin, who said that he was "assessments," even though he has often told constituents that he favors capital punishment for murderers of police officers.

Against: In the Senate, the Maclean's survey showed that at least 13 of the 31 Tory senators oppose the motion. In fact, support it, three are undecided and 11 did not respond. Conservative Senator John Macdonald said Macdonald's his position—against modernism—is heavily influenced by the case of New Scotland (Donald Marshall), who served 11 years in prison for the murder that he did not commit. "The Donald Marshall case is enough to turn anyone's stomach," said Macdonald. "That poor bugger would have been dead if there had been capital punishment."

The Macdonald's allies will likely change over the next three months, as interest groups exert more pressure on him. Two major groups have formed to oppose capital punishment: the Coalition Against the Return of the Death Penalty, which includes 31 national groups, including the justice churches, and a committee of community leaders organized by Toronto criminal lawyer Edward Greenpan. The coalition was formed in January 1995, by members of the Canadian Council of Churches and such groups as the Elizabeth Fry Society, which helps women released from jails and penitentiaries. Over the past two years, with an operating budget of just \$30,000, it has attracted such allies as the 4,000-member Canadian Association of Social Workers and 20,000-member Amnesty International, and it has created 48 local groups to speak out against the death penalty.

Who? The national campaign is now led by the Amnesty society, which has attracted prominent political leaders in Europe and Australia who have promised to express their repugnance at the death penalty through public statements or private meetings—to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who is expected to sign the legislation. Leaders of Canada's major religious groups have also asked for a meeting with Mulroney to register their opposition. Canada's Anglican bishops endorsed a strong statement opposing the death penalty last month and two weeks ago the country's Roman Catholic

bishops denounced capital punishment as a "system that tries to overcome one evil by doing another evil."

Within three weeks the coalition will distribute information kits to every MP. Each member organization has asked its members to contact MPs, conduct public seminars and pass out brochures. "We want to have a real dialogue with people," said Coalition co-ordinator Eleanor Macdonald. "That is our main charge."

In contrast to that grassroots effort, Greenpan is assembling a high-profile committee to challenge proponents of the death penalty. Members intend to lay advertising space in newspapers, make speeches and conduct a series of public polls before the final vote. Those conducting the poll will supply information about the death penalty to respondents before their opinion is solicited. And Greenpan has vowed to debate Ontario Tory MP Bill Domm, the author's leading crusader for the death penalty, at every opportunity. "Bill Domm single-handedly forced this issue—so he has to be taken on," said Greenpan. "He will have to live with the rest of his life."

Rights: In fact, Domm has become a key focus of the debate—largely because many groups strongly favour capital punishment are hesitant to engage in a distasteful fight. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, for example, supports the death penalty but will not take any position to promote it. The Canadian Police Association also intends to avoid the debate.

Instead, the lobbying has been left to Domm—and a handful of crime-fighter organizations and law-and-order groups. The organization, Ontario Responding to You, is an 80-member national group composed of concerned Canadians. Spokesman Joyce Wilson of Hamilton, Ont., said that she is worried her members and other capital punishment advocates have left most of the fight to Domm. "Why is nobody coming out of the woodwork?" she asked. "We have to start making a noise now."

The publically proponent take comfort in opinion polls. In a Gallup survey last October, 68 per cent favored capital punishment, 29 per cent opposed it and 12 per cent were undecided. Those figures have remained relatively constant throughout the 1990s. Proponents are equally confident studies charting the effect of death penalty cases on public opinion.

In a 1995 study, Neil Vidmar, a psychology professor at the University of Western Ontario, and Austin Savel, a political science professor at Mount Allison, polled 181 adult Americans, most about the death penalty. Later,

AN ARDENT ADVOCATE

Conservative MP Bill Domm, who represents the Ontario riding of Peterborough, is one of the nation's leading advocates of restoring the death penalty. Maclean's Ontario Bureau Correspondent Hilary Macdonald interviewed Domm in his office last week.

Maclean's: Why do you favor capital punishment?

Domm: It seems like a reasonable form of justice to be applied for the crimes committed. It is a penalty befitting the

crimes of less than 1,000 persons per institution.

Maclean's: Does it change human life when the state takes a life?

Domm: No, it doesn't. The morality of life is reinforced just by how we deal with persons who take life away from their victims. When someone violates the sanctity of life, they lose the right to their own life. Returning to capital punishment for those who take life away from an innocent person restores the sanctity of life.

Maclean's: Many Canadians object of public rage and that capital punishment is not a deterrent, but retributive justice.

Domm: There is some life deterrence, the cost of keeping a prisoner, the moral value of taking another person's life, are all preponderant. The main reason should be, in the death penalty just, and it is justified in the mind of society? There is a consensus in our society today that the death penalty is appropriate. I am satisfied that the victims of crime also support it as a just penalty.

Maclean's: What about the case of Donald Marshall (the Nova Scotian who spent 17 years in jail after a wrongful murder conviction)?

Domm: Donald Marshall was not convicted of first-degree murder. He would not have been put to death. There is not one example in Canada since Confederation of



Domm: Capital punishment restores the sanctity of life.

wrongful conviction, as proven to be wrong by a court process. The fact that Marshall was wrongfully hanged?

Domm: Upset. We're all human and apt to make mistakes. But the risk we're taking is getting deliberate murderers back on the streets again. It is far greater than the risk of making a wrongful conviction murderer. At the time of abolition in 1976 there were 13 convicts who had lost all of their appeals—murderers who are now coming up for parole. I wouldn't wish it on my own case that one of these people was back on the streets and murdering again.

Domm: Principally as a protection to society—the institutional society of prison guards and prisoners. Once a person receives a life sentence with no chance of parole (hardcore murderers) Clifford Olson is an example—what would he lose if he were to kill some person, either in the process of escaping or back in society? We have a murderer in our prisons every 36 days—ass-

ing me now.

Maclean's: Why do you believe capital punishment is preferable to life imprisonment?

Domm: Principally as a protection to society—the institutional society of prison guards and prisoners. Once a person receives a life sentence with no chance of parole (hardcore murderers) Clifford Olson is an example—what would he lose if he were to kill some person, either in the process of escaping or back in society? We have a murderer in our prisons every 36 days—ass-

one group read an essay containing fervid arguments against capital punishment; another read an essay with moral arguments; and a third group read both papers.

The results were dramatic. Among the group that read the first paper, support for capital punishment dropped to 35 from 53 per cent; after reading the humanist paper, support dipped to 49 from 54 per cent; and support in the group that read a combination of material plummeted to 42 from 62 per cent. "Most people are uncomfortable about the death penalty," Vidmar said. "When they read about it, they tend to oppose it."

Fears: Members of the coalition against the death penalty say that many Canadians, adverse to capital punishment out of fear of crime, indeed, many studies support the view that the public exaggerates the crime rate. According to a 1988 study by the University of Toronto's Centre of Criminology, almost 75 per cent of Canadians believe that at least 30 per cent of all crimes are violent. In reality, only 5.7 per cent fall into that category. Moreover, almost three-thirds of Canadians believe that the murder rate has increased since the abolition of capital punishment in 1976. But a 1988 report from the justice department concluded that the rate has shown "no significant changes."

Deaths: Those figures go to the heart of the capital punishment debate: is it a deterrent to crime? In 1976, the year before Parliament abolished the death penalty, Statistics Canada said that the rate of homicide deaths was 3.96 per 100,000 people. It has never again been so high. In 1986, the last year for which figures are available, it was 2.76. Other statistics cited by opponents of hanging: 38 police officers were murdered in Canada between 1966 and 1975—compared to 37 in the 16 years after abolition. And during those two decades the number of police officers almost doubled. Last August, the Association of Chiefs of Police acknowledged, "It is futile to base an argument on misstatement on the grounds of deterrence."

But proponents of capital punishment also cite matched, some disturbing statistics about the growth of crime. The

justice department reported that between 1976 and 1982 the overall rate of Criminal Code offences increased by 20.7 per cent. In the same period the rate of violent crimes such as sexual assault jumped 29.9 per cent.

Deen also notes that the rate of

The Killing Curve



first-degree murder charges—including "planned and deliberate" murders—has increased steadily to 3.35 per 100,000 in 1986 from 0.91 per cent in 1977. The decline in general homicide rates, Deen said, is uncertain, "because we are debating conditions for a crime type



Scott: "In climate in which violence breeds"

of murder—planned and deliberate." United Church minister Scott countered that public pressure has led police to lay more first-degree charges. Law officers are also engaging in more first-degree 160–40 bargain charges are laid to encourage guilty pleas for a lesser offence. While that statistic's battle rages,

Deen's crusade is drawing strength from the public perception that the law does not punish criminals adequately—no public safety is threatened. The current penalty for first-degree murder is a maximum of 30 years without parole; for second-degree murder it is at least 10 years without parole.

But in Calgary, rocked by the murder of nurse Special Const Gordon Kowalski last January, these sentences hold little meaning. Calgary's John Moul, 65-year-old owner of a chemical distribution business, said that he does not care if capital punishment is not a deterrent. "So what? Neither is the fear of the perpetrators seems to be pricing."

Fairfax: In the end, the debate always comes back to one question: does the punishment fit the crime? For proponents, the issue is painful but simple: a life for a life. As Wilson, of Children Responding To Violence, said, "I could never give a lethal injection [to a condemned murderer], but thank goodness there is someone who can. Any cold-blooded murderer has forfeited his right to live."

For opponents, the sanctity of life is a measure of the civility—and goodness—of a society. The coalition against the death penalty has suggested alternatives to protect Canadians: tighter gun controls; better treatment for alcohol and drug abuse and programs to deter family violence—all one of the major causes of homicide. Greenpeace further emphasizes that the worst-set parole boards acting behind closed doors—should have the power to parole convicted murderers.

But in the end, the most haunting question may belong to the *Canadian's* 11 major religious organizations. In a brief, they said, "It is a basic tenet that the sacredness of life can be neither forfeited nor denied, no matter how heinous the crime." Caught between religious injunction on the one hand and rising

angry constituents on the other, are also agonizing sinners with their colleagues—and their consciences.

—JAMES BANGMAN with STEPHEN ALEXANDER in Toronto, PAUL GERRARD, and JEFFREY MACLEOD in Ottawa and ABILEY GERRARD in Calgary

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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

AN EVERYDAY DEATH

Elmo Moreno, a 27-year-old former lawn-mower repairman, started down breakfast one morning last week. "I'm waiting for the big meal," he told a guard at the 1001st State Prison near Houston, Texas. The dinner that Moreno anticipated was to be his last. Later that night he became the 77th person executed in the United States since the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for the return of capital punishment 11 years ago.

Rampage: Moreno found himself on Texas's death row—wasting his favorite television program, *Gunsmoke*—for the last time—because of an incident on October, 1983. Drunk and upset by the failure of his second marriage, Moreno—who had only one misdemeanor on his record—went on a rampage. He shot and killed six people and kidnapped six others before quietly surrendering to police and admitting guilt. Shortly before sunset last Tuesday the Texas department of corrections fulfilled Moreno's wish that no action be taken to delay the death sentence imposed on him.

In the United States, situations such as Moreno's have become almost commonplace. There are 35 states that now impose capital punishment—and about 1,275 inmates on death row. Among them: Paula Cooper, a 37-year-old black woman convicted in Indiana of a 1985 murder. And despite efforts by human-rights groups to ban executions and bring U.S. law back in line with that of most other major industrialized countries, immediate change is unlikely. Polls show that about 75 per cent of Americans support the death penalty.

Juries: Indeed, recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings may increase the number of executions. In a key decision last May, the top justice ruled that courts may exclude opponents of the death penalty from juries in murder trials. State Circuit Judge Howard, assistant attorney general for the state of Florida, says: "We may see a flurry of old cases as because a finding of old cases is

now going through the system."

Moreno was the second person executed this year in the United States. Legs shackled and arms handcuffed, he was bundled into the back seat of vanishing Jack Purley's Chrysler sedan and driven 34 km along a country back

road. As a humane subcutaneous injection began flowing into his veins, 18 witnesses heard Moreno address them: "The wages of sin is death, and I'm willing to pay according to the laws of Texas because I know I'm guilty."

Then, at 12 minutes after midnight,



Nazis death chamber, Moreno (below) a deadly cocktail of barbiturates and paralytic drugs

road to the state's death chamber: an unmarked building surrounded by the 40-foot brick walls of Houstonville Prison, next door to a rodeo arena.

The big meal, delivered shortly after Moreno's arrival, proved to be a disappointment. Moreno had requested shrimp with cheese enchiladas—but fish patties had been substituted. When the time came, he walked briskly from his holding cell into the brightly lit, 10-by-16-foot execution chamber. Hopping up as he in the modified hospital gurney for the injection of fatal drugs, Moreno announced, "I'm ready for the rocket ride home."

Eight white leather straps were quickly fastened around Moreno's body. From a hole in the brick wall, two plastic tubes fitted with needles were inserted and inserted into his

Purley spoke in an economical, efficient manner, the scene from an adjoining room. "Let us begin." Gradually the saline solution was changed to a deadly cocktail of three barbiturates and paralytic inducing drugs, which soon clouded Moreno's eyes and slowed his breathing.

Six minutes later, at 12:13 a.m., Moreno was declared dead. Outside the massive brick prison walls, a dense drizzle of students from nearby San Houston State University cheered. Two protesters contrived a candlelight prayer vigil.

Witness: Experts on both sides of the U.S. capital punishment debate agree on one point: the popular support for capital punishment results largely from their country's high crime rate. About 30,000 Americans are murdered each year, the only figure which capital

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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

publishers against offshore new upshots. Said Henry Schwarzschild, director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) capital punishment project: "People are understandably afraid for their safety. But it's absurd to imagine that a society that sees killing for social control is going to be less violent."

There are conflicting statistical arguments about whether execution is an effective deterrent to murder. Florida's 35 executions since the Supreme Court's 1976 ruling that the death penalty is not "cruel or unusual punishment" exceeded only by the Texas total of 30. And Florida's death row houses about 200 murders, more than any other state. Yet other statistical notes that Florida's murder rate is higher now than it was during the period between 1964 and 1979, when the state's electric chair was not used.

For their part, proponents of death sentences offer a more complex statistical analysis to defend their arguments. The first, published by economist Isaac Ehrlich in 1975 at the University of Chicago, estimated that every execution saves the lives of about eight people by deterring other killers. Another study, published 10 years later by University of North Carolina economist Stephen Layton, concluded that 18 lives are saved each time a sentence is put to death.

Torture: The debate goes on without respite. The ACLU's Schwarzschild argues that deterrence is not the issue. Most civilized countries now would reject burning criminals at the stake, he said, even if it were proven to be effective in lowering crime rates. Nor, says capital punishment advocate Robert van den Haag, professor of jurisprudence and public policy at New York's Fordham University. Declared van den Haag: "It is in favor of torture if it could be shown that torture would save the lives of innocent people. But what people fear most in life is death, not torture."

The next major Supreme Court battle will focus on race. Later this year the court is scheduled to rule on whether a victim's race is a factor in applying the death penalty. Blacks and other minorities—only 15 per cent of the total U.S. population—make up about 48 per cent of inmates on death row.

But groups opposed to capital punishment fail to convince their fight. Said Schwarzschild: "It's hard to get a general idea. And that's deplorable because our system will continue to kill people. How can the state say that we take killing so seriously that we will kill for it?"

—JAN KIRSTEN in Washington with PHILIP M. FRIED in Toronto

WHEN DEATH WAS A SPECTATOR SPORT

It was a well-attended event. A farmer, Rhyak Dexter, had been condemned to death for fatally shooting his neighbor, James Vandenberg, during an argument in Toronto. On Aug. 16, 1916, Dexter was led from his jail cell to a scaffold. According to a contemporary account, "A great crowd was on hand, and they gave a great cheer when Dexter appeared, for many had waited hours for this show." They were not disappointed.



A hanging in Hull, Que., 1902: graceless death struggles

with minutes Dexter was struggling to death at the end of a rope.

Appeal: Executions do not know exactly how many people have been executed in Canada. An estimated 450 people—including 11 women—were hanged between 1867 and 1962, when the country's last execution was carried out at Toronto's Don Jail. Dozens more were executed before Confederation, almost all of them publicly. In fact, the nation's early lawmakers believed that the sight of a criminal's graceless death struggles would deter others from crime. But the crime rate continued to grow in step with the

population. And executions carried a heavy appeal. In 1928 10,000 people watched a double hanging in Toronto—population at the time 2,800.

Method: Crowd participation was often spiced. Spectators would arrive at the gallows hours ahead of time to secure a prime viewing spot. The noon's victim was usually the star attraction, but it was the executioner who drew either cheers—or a hiss, quick hanging—or jeers for a snail, lagging 30 seconds. And audiences could be demanding. On Sept. 6, 1903, hundreds gathered outside Montreal Prison to witness a scheduled double hanging. Only hours before the hanging, the sentence of one of the condemned men was commuted. Angered, the mob rushed the scaffold, hurling stones, even as the lone prisoner swung above them.

After British rule replaced the French regime in Canada in 1763, the number of capital offences grew rapidly. By the early 1800s a Canadian could be executed for about 120 crimes—including defying a boundary marker. In fact, in 1801 a boy of 12, B. Clements, was hanged in Montreal for stealing a cow.

Public executions were abolished in 1868, but public interest remained strong until the end. When murderers Ronald Turpin and Arthur Luca were hanged in Toronto on Dec. 11, 1962, motorists stopped their cars outside Don Jail as onlookers—the last reported for the execution—approached. Although they could not see the hanging outside the jail, they were drawn to the site by the same morbid fascination that brought their ancestors to witness the final moments of Hjalmar Dexter 146 years before.

—CINDY BARRETT in Toronto

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Hard questions for the NDP

Only a couple of years ago it would have been unthinkable. One fleeting weeknight last month New Democratic Party workers paraded 300 francophone Quebecers to meet party leader Ed Broadbent inside a speakeasy in Ladue-sur, a small town north of Montreal.

While they make up their minds between the major parties, NDP strategists say they are convinced that the party's consistent performance in recent surveys is more than an aberration. A February poll by Angus Reid Associates of Winnipeg put NDP support at 33 per cent—nine points behind

some contentious parts of the NDP program appear to be less important to Canadians than a general liking of the party and its leader.

Because of the strong showing, the three-day policy convention—which includes a speech by Broadbent on Friday to 1,200 delegates—has taken on unusual significance.

A good performance by delegates is critical to the party's attempts to shift away from its traditional role as the conscience of the nation. In the past, critics of the party found easy targets in some NDP policy resolutions. Those resolutions—including commitments to nationalize one major Canadian bank and end Canada's participation in the NATO and NATO defense alliances—were still in the NDP policy book.

But many members say that voters are not deeply troubled by the points of policy. Paul Turman, Quebec NDP MP Dan Hoag, "When we are in the polls, people always go to drop certain policies. When we are high, people advise us to drop the same ones." Added Broadbent's principal secretary, William Knight, "Even if we dropped all our so-called controversial policies, the two other parties would still go on for being too far left."

Still, senior party strategists have displayed a new pragmatism in recent weeks in dealing with sensitive areas of NDP policy. In public appearances in the past month, Broadbent stressed that his party did not see business profits as intrinsically evil, that it would work with small and medium-sized businesses, and that it would not greatly increase the size of the federal bureaucracy should it take power.

Broadbent has displayed similar pragmatism in addressing more public controversies. Worried about angering Quebec voters, he did not rush to the



Broadbent in Lecherwell, Quebec, now appears to understand voters

the leading Liberals and 16 points ahead of the Tories. And among the party leaders, Broadbent, 50, is by far the most popular.

In Quebec, the party's popularity is at a historic high. The Reid survey conducted in February showed that 33 per cent of voters were ready to support the NDP in a province where it received just one per cent of the vote in the 1984 federal election. Declared former NDP federal secretary Gerald Caplan, now a political consultant, "All of a sudden, ratings about socialism or

their historical fear of socialist parties to take a serious look at the NDP program—and whether, having looked, they will be comfortable with what they find. The party itself will try to appeal to mainstream voters without betraying its social-democratic roots.

Some delegates claim that Canadians—frustrated with the Conservative government but still reluctant to throw their support to John Turner's Liberals—are only parking their votes temporarily with the New Democrats



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defence of Manóvich's NDP premier. However, it was clear that province leaders did not see the NDP as the CP-16 fighter Broadbent's staff is careful to have been strong general concepts such as fairness and integrity, rather than the controversial NDP program. Said one aide "We are in a national ball park now and, provided as it is, we have to address national issues in a mature way."

In past conventions, left-wing members of the party considered attempts to change key policies as a betrayal. At the party's 1985 convention in Ottawa, bitter floor fights erupted over the party's commitment to withdraw Canada from NATO. Now, however, major splits appear unlikely. The key reason, according to NDP federal secretary Dennis Young, is that party members sense that there is a real chance now to make lasting electoral gains. And that sentiment overshadowed any fears about possible criticism of the NDP's position. Said Young: "A strong tide lifts all, and if there was any apprehension leading into the convention, it was over missing a historic opportunity."

In addition, the so-called "left Queens" of the party, a loosely knit group that attempts to keep the party true to its social-democratic roots, appears to be less active. Said Ottawa labor Council director Mervyn Garside, who previously has been closely associated with the group. "The left wing is more quiescent than it has been in a long while. The party is on a roll and everybody wants it to succeed."

The real test of the NDP's unity will come after the convention, when its election planning committee will have to decide how to spend its campaign fund of \$5 million—nearly twice the amount it spent during the 1984 federal election. Young predicted heated competition among regional branches of the party for access to the funds—especially if Broadbent makes fewer campaign stops in the West in order to be

more visible in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. Manóvich's Pavley voiced some concern over those priorities last week. "I'm very pleased at the gains by the NDP in Quebec," Pavley told Manóvich. "But the party must not forget its basic roots and history of electoral strength in Western Canada."

Still, the NDP's battle to become a

national and Quebec wings over a formula for bringing Quebec into the Constitution. The Quebec party, headed by Jean-Paul Harney, wants the party to renounce the province's exclusive power to legislate on language matters. Broadbent rejected that provision, but a compromise resolution—hammered out at a party meeting in January—committed the NDP to "re-



Quebec deputy Harney; persistent reports that relations with Broadbent are strained

truly national party will likely be won or lost in Quebec. Young's objection to the party was an unexpected gain, but our strategists are still uncertain about the degree of ability in their Quebec support. The party has only 4,000 members in Quebec, compared with 35,000 in Ontario, and last fall-time arguments Party association have been muddled in only about half

of Quebec's 75 federal ridings. The NDP's Quebec secretary, Michel Agnelli, acknowledged that the party is "at least one" in the province. And Ottawa-based party workers and previously last week that the NDP has just six to eight months to get down firm roots in the province—or it may lose the opportunity to win long-term support there.

The NDP's hopes in Quebec have been clouded by a serious disagreement between

place new constitutional provisions whose purpose would be to protect the linguistic rights of Quebec's majority. Another problem in Quebec, persistent reports that personal relations between Harney and Broadbent—rivals for the party leadership at its 1971 and 1975 conventions—are strained.

One sign of the NDP's new strength is the apprehension with which both of the other parties are watching its growth. The Liberals have even set up a special committee to monitor the NDP. And NDP MP Steven Langford: "The perception in the past among some people has been that you waste your vote by voting for the NDP, that we could never form a government." As they prepared for their weekend convention, many New Democrats seemed to believe that the party had a better chance than ever to change that perception—and become a real contender for power.

—MICHAEL ROSE is Ottawa with ALYCE AMERIKIAN and ANTHONY WILSON SMITH in Montreal. CHRIS WOOD is in St. John and DAVID SMITH in Winnipeg.

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The sweep of free trade

As they prepared for a critical meeting with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney this week on free trade, some of Canada's 10 provincial premiers expressed a sense of apprehension. For several weeks, a series of high-level discussions from Ottawa has punctuated the venue of anxiety that has slowed trade negotiations with the United States. The information raised concerns among some premiers that Ottawa may be seeking a much more comprehensive trade agreement than they anticipated. Then, last week Senator Lowell Murray, Ottawa's minister of state for federal-provincial relations, sparked further worries when he questioned whether it was really necessary to have the provinces ratify a free trade accord. As a result, now trade critic Steven Langdon predicted "a massive acceleration of the free trade fight" between Ottawa and the provinces. Said Langdon, "We are seeing to a crunch on the federal-provincial authority issue."

At the centre of the conflict is a draft trade agreement currently being mopped up by Canadian free trade negotiator Steven Reisman and his Amer-

ican counterpart, Peter Murphy. Mulroney's sources, who declined to be identified, have confirmed earlier reports that Reisman and Murphy are aiming for an accord that would gradually eliminate all tariffs by the year 2000. In addition, the agreement would prevent the creation of any new trade barriers in the future and prohibit both

**Sources confirm that
Reisman and Murphy
are seeking a deal that
would eliminate all
tariffs by the year 2000**

countries from giving special treatment to domestic companies. Draftsight given by Reisman to provincial officials have also left some of them concerned that current restrictions on American ownership of Canadian companies will be eliminated and that protection against American competition will be diluted for Canadian television stations and some companies.

One senior Canadian official close to

the talks said that Canada is prepared to grant Washington complete access to all service industries, including banking, and greater access to natural resources, including water. But other officials on both sides of the border maintained last week that those issues have not yet been resolved.

Trade officials in Washington, Ottawa and provincial capitals said that Reisman and Murphy intend to produce what they called a "broad-based draft agreement" in June. The draft would spell out the broad principles—but not the details—of a free trade pact. The document would also define areas of dispute, with the positions of each side in parentheses. Then, according to an American official, the negotiators will spend the summer "removing the brackets, doing the whittling and desludging." By October an outline of a proposed agreement would be submitted to the Congress.

Reisman's office last week refused comment on those details, although other trade officials have identified him as the "senior Canadian official" who gave similar information to The Canadian Press two weeks ago. Some provincial officials maintained that Reisman had revealed to them many of the same details carried by CP. His strategy in discussing the information, they claimed, was to force the federal

government to state publicly its basic position on several key trade issues, including protection for agricultural products. Ottawa's briefing has been "driving Reisman crazy," said a counterpart of the negotiator.

Because of the potential impact on agricultural products, the proposed elimination of all tariffs has become one of the most contentious issues facing the talks. Domestic producers could be hurt unless some other mechanism, such as export quotas, were found to protect them from cheaper American produce. Canadian farmers have become especially concerned about U.S. imports since the passage of the 1985 U.S. Farm Bill, which allows billions of dollars for export subsidies. Last week Canadian farmers won a major victory in their struggle against U.S. imports when the Canadian Import Tribunal upheld a countervailing duty against subsidized U.S. corn. American producers immediately condemned the decision.

Ottawa has also expressed concern that the elimination of tariffs could jeopardize the 25-year-old Canada-U.S. Auto Pact, which requires U.S. automakers to produce some of their vehicles and parts in Canada in return for duty-free access to the Canadian market.

A sounding of several provincial gov-



Reisman: Allowed for recent disclosure

ernments last week indicated that Manitoba Premier Howard Pawley and Ontario's David Peterson would likely be the leading opponents of tariff removal during discussions at this week's meeting. And with Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa, Pawley planned to press for a mechanism that would allow the provinces to ratify or reject details of any proposed free trade agreement.

Bourassa wants a veto for the provinces, at least in areas affecting provincial jurisdiction. But Murray last week echoed the veto idea a "nonstarter," voicing doubts about the need for provincial ratification. Said Murray: "It's the government of Canada that approves international treaties."

The signs that Ottawa may soon produce a draft agreement have stirred some opponents of the trade initiative. Liberal trade critic Lloyd Axworthy, for one, said that he is concerned that the government may rush into a deal too quickly. The resulting agreement, he said, would be "a Trojan horse" filled with dangers that would hurt Canada for years to come. But the Mulroney government has long maintained an accord to be a key goal. The recent flurry of anxiety indicates that it is determined to meet it.

—PAUL GIBBONS with NICHOLAS MACDONALD in Ottawa and SAN KELLEY in Washington

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Tragedy in the harbor

It literally only took a minute. The 6,000-ton British ferry Herald of Free Enterprise had just left the Belgian port of Zeebrugge on the Friday evening tide last week and was heading out into the English Channel bound for Dover with 363 passengers and 88 crew members. Then, for no evident reason, it began to roll.

Within 60 seconds, the giant ferry had tipped onto its port side and had come to rest against a submerged mudbank, hurling screaming passengers into the icy sea. For the hundreds of others—virtually all of them British—trapped below deck, "It was sheer murder," said survivor James Bennett. "Passengers screamed, clinging to chairs and falling in water that was suddenly chest deep. The lights went out, and in the dark and confusion I recall telling myself, 'This can't be happening.'"

Inevitably, it had. By Saturday morning, Townsend Thoresen, the British owner of the ferry, listed at least 243 persons as dead or missing. But a combination of luck, skill and determination resulted in the rescue of 408 others. The sea was unusually calm for the time of year, visibility was excellent and the wind was light. Around 8 p.m. on March 6, as the ferry pulled out of the harbor, water spilled onto the huge car deck, where 36 trucks and 94 cars were parked. According to experts, the sea may have surged through a gap between the bow doors as the vessel

turned from the calm waters of the harbor into the light swell of the English Channel. Whatever the reason, as experts pointed out later, only two or three inches of water sloshing across the open car deck could have caused the seven-year-old ship to list. "You would get a state of roll in the vessel," said Alan Tate of the Royal

National Lifeboat Institution, "and when the water rushed to one side as the ship rolled, it would continue to turn over."

Only a remarkable turn of fate prevented the death toll from being much heavier. Although the ferry did not have time to send out an SOS, French, Dutch and Belgian warships

and helicopters were on the scene in 15 minutes because a nearby NATO naval exercise was under way. Joining them was an armada of civilian vessels from the port. As rescuers packed survivors from the 2°C waters, sailors clambered over the side of the Herald and smashed perches to reach passengers trapped inside. Bodies were lowered in scores of dazed and terrified men, women and children. As the passengers were pulled out, and either lowered to waiting boats or hoisted into hovering helicopters, divers descended in search of passengers still alive inside air pockets further below. "The sight was incredible," said one Belgian diver. "People were drowning in front of my eyes. I managed to bring a few to

safety, but many, many more were beyond help." By midnight, some 400 people had been saved. With hopes fading, at 1 a.m.—five hours after the ferry capsized—divers dragged three more people alive from an air pocket in the aft section. But they were the last to escape. Visibly stricken, Belgian Transport Minister Herman de Croo told Moolenaar: "None has run out. All the others have died." By Saturday morning, in addition to the 34 dead inside the ferry, or otherwise accounted for, there were another 60 bodies in a makeshift morgue on shore—all victims of drowning, hypothermia or injuries. And British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher flew to Zeebrugge where at least 97

people, including ferry Capt. David Lowry, were in hospital. As survivors told their stories, it became painfully obvious that—with some exceptions—it had been "every man for himself" as the ship sank. "You must be joking," said one male survivor when asked if the tradition of "women and children first" had been observed. "Everyone was fighting for dear life," he said. And on Belgian radio, Raymond Netherth, a spokesman for the British ferry company, tried in vain to explain the tragedy. "It was fate," he said. "It was fate. We do not know what happened."

—JOHN MEHRMAN with PETER LEVY in Zeebrugge



Capitulated ferry in port of Zeebrugge; (right) vain rescue effort underway: 'It was sheer murder'



Returning to shore, (below) survivors: water spilled on the huge deck



Reagan's public relations offensive

Even his critics agreed that it was a skilled, if slightly strained, performance. The voice on which he had built a 30-year show-business career had traded in its ball-mark effectiveness for an uncharacteristic urgency. His bark, ensuring delivery of the 15-minute speech, seemed designed to show that at 70 he had not lost his vigor. In the cleverly crafted text—which had gone through

With that blend of certainties and self-satisfaction, Reagan pulled off a public relations success in what many observers had billed as the most important speech of his political career. Later in the week the President's position strengthened further as the White House responded favorably to an arms-control proposal from the Kremlin and officials spoke of a proposed Canada-U.S. trade accord becoming a key leg-

had improved his approval rating by 11 points to 52 per cent, 64 per cent of those asked thought he was still holding something back. A majority of respondents also said that they believed the scandal would handicap the rest of his presidency.

But even Democratic congressmen said that they were content to accept the cautiousness Reagan made, if only because they did not want to see the

members of the National Security Council (NSC) staff, Reagan viewed them as they walked the law and ordered them not to engage in further overt action, something he had already announced three months earlier. After persuading Robert Gates, his candidate for director of the Central Intelligence Agency, to withdraw his controversial nomination, the White House announced a replacement for the aging William Casey. The new nominee was William Webster, the respected former appeals court judge who has been head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation since 1978.

In his effort to divert public attention from continuing congressional re-

solutely to divert attention from his domestic political problems. And such omipotence as Stephen Hens of the Walsh House-based think tank the Brookings Institution pointed out that the Senate's offer of an arms reduction treaty was clearly opportunistic. Said Hens of the proposed arms accord: "The Senate would get out and now he needs us."

A similar mix of motives appeared evident in Capitol Hill, where Democratic leaders defined themselves harshly by White House overtures to appease Congress. But the Democrats also indicated their appetite to take advantage of Reagan's difficulties to press him into compromise on a number of issues. Those include this

trade policy by giving a new higher priority to efforts to free trade talks with Canada. U.S. deputy treasury secretary Richard Darman told 40 members of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs meeting in Washington last that such a swap would be one of the Reagan administration's few "historic" achievements.

In fact, that added political impetus is likely to induce the White House to use the President's April summit with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in Ottawa for a major statement on trade. And Darman revealed that if an agreement was reached by next fall, the administration would launch a full-scale effort to push it through Congress.

Reagan's major aim is to foster a new spirit of co-operation with Capitol Hill remains his appointment of Baker. Last week, as Baker paid a sentimental courtesy call on his former congressional colleagues, they hailed him as a master compromiser who had piloted some of the President's most contentious programs through legislative storms as the former Senate Republican majority leader.

On some issues, Baker's personal popularity may prove decisive. But despite the rhetoric of mutual co-operation, Baker will have to deal with a new independent-mindedness in Capitol Hill, where neither Republicans nor Democrats were free Reagan's once-sensuous popularity. Indeed, Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole predicted few legislative victories for the White House in the next two years. Said Dole: "We are in a holding pattern."

As Reagan attempts to move forward from the time after, he may encounter opposition from right-wingers who are clearly concerned that he will move toward the political center. In an effort to calm down the extremists, Reagan met with a group of conservative senators last week to assure them that he will press for deployment of his space-based antimissile system, for a constitutional amendment curbing a balanced budget, and for legislation forbidding abortion.

Still, even the President's political foes were cheering him on last week in the hope that he would recover enough credibility to restore him, and thereby, the country's, dignity. Republican Sen. New York Democratic Governor Mario Cuomo after Reagan's televised address: "We all want to lose Ronald Reagan. He made it a little bit easier tonight."

—MARCUS MAGNALL in Washington



Reagan, Baker (right) in the Oval Office: questions remained about the President after his public relations success.

countless White House rewrites—said Reagan accepted "full responsibility" for the Iranian arms sale scandal which had left his presidency precariously wounded.

Contradicting his own earlier claims, Reagan acknowledged that the plan had "intentioned" into an exchange of weapons for hostages. Then, he switched to the folksy-philosophical style which contributed so much to his once-unrivaled popularity. "You know, by the time you reach my age, you've made plenty of mistakes if you've lived your life properly," he said. "So you learn. You put things in perspective. You pull your energies together. You change. You go forward."

of Reagan's leadership.

It represented the essential first step toward salvaging his embattled office from two years of total paralysis to come. But many, even among his supporters, indicated that the speech—and his flurry of personal changes last week—were not enough to dispel the questions still clouding his presidency. Said senior Republican Senator Robert Dole of Kansas: "This can't be kind him yet, but it's a start."

Indeed, some critics still faulted Reagan for failing to apologize outright and admit that his Iran policy had been flawed from the outset. And a CBS News poll of 510 viewers sampled after the speech indicated that, while it

action further weakened. Said Democratic House Speaker Jim Wright of Texas: "He did not want an embattled presidency."

Reagan's minority television performance was one of a number of attempts last week to recast the impression that he had become what the respected British weekly, *The Observer*, termed "the weakest President" since before the speech, new White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker declared that he had "never seen Ronald Reagan more energetic, more fully engaged."

Then Baker launched the president into a flurry of activity to prove the point. At a closed meeting of the 50

senators to the arms scandal, Reagan received help from an unlikely source: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. With an offer to pull intermediate-range nuclear missiles out of Europe—even if the action was taken on the slanting back of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (page 20)—the Kremlin appeared to be rescuing Reagan's presidency from a crippling impasse. Indeed, Nancy Reagan and the President's longtime advisors had concluded that an arms control agreement would be the best way to surround the current crisis and assure him a place in history (page 20).

But critics said that Reagan should not make this an ill-considered treaty

year's controversial trillion-dollar budget, a proposed trade bill and failure to the Nicaraguan rebels known as contras.

Indeed, the first test of their resolve may take place this week on a vote to release the final \$52-million installment of last year's \$120-million military aid and package to the contra. Some Democrats have vowed to call for a suspension on any release until all previous contra funding is accounted for in the investigations of the Iranian arms deal—a move which could delay release until at least next fall.

In laying out an agenda that will take the best of Reagan, the cabinet also decided to safeguard its



Webster being congratulated by FBI workers: a new improved machine for CIA director.

'Mommy' Dearest

I was a White House photo opportunity like so many others. Ronald Reagan was posing for pictures with his newly appointed Central Intelligence Agency Chief William Webster last week and suddenly one query provoked the President into a rare display of wrath. The subject: media descriptions of his wife, Nancy, as the most formidable power in the White House, responsible for the replacement of former chief of staff Donald Regan and orchestrating the administration's new drive for an arms-control treaty with the Soviet Union. New York Times columnist William Safire had depicted her as a "power-hungry First Lady," wielding control over ambassadorial appointments and press access to her husband. While the noted conservative columnist "President Reagan is being weakened and made to suppose wimpish and helpless by the political interference of his wife."

To the President, a devoted husband, those were fighting words—shown all because they appeared just before the Reagan's 50th wedding anniversary. Declaring that journalists had "coined a name," the President denounced the reports as "damnable fiction." Still, Nancy Reagan's friends have made no secret of her fierce behind-the-scenes campaign to keep out the chief of staff and—in the wake of the Tower commission's harsh judgments on Regan—her determination to rescue the President's reputation and secure his place in history. Indeed, the First Lady herself appeared to acknowledge that she would not stand by idly over the next two years if the new her husband threatened. As she told the American Camping Association on March 2: "I don't think most people associate me with leadership or how I get these off, but I know how to get them off. I'm an expert at it."

The storm over Nancy Reagan's role broke just as she seemed likely to have won over the Washington press corps. When she first arrived in the capital from Calverton in 1961, the media depicted her as Queen Nancy—a high-handed socialite obsessed with extravagant designer gowns and protocol. Her were feminists impressed with her sharing public space at her husband's side called her "Bossy."

But most winters credit Nancy Reagan with turning her own image around. She plunged determinedly into an anti-drug crusade—shedding tears in public over the problems of young addicts. She also impressed her strum-

gled critics with her sense of humor, as well as the talents she learned as a sometime Hollywood actress. At a 1968 dinner of the White House press corps, she staged a surprise spoof on her reputation as a disciplinarian by working a read-up of the Broadway tune *Send No One to Sleep*.



The Reagans on their 35th anniversary on March 4: putting off the reaches

Longtime associates say that Nancy Reagan is neither the superficial socialite she was once portrayed as, nor the manipulative power-behind-the-scenes described by Safire. "She is playing the role she has always played," said former campaign aide Stuart Rosen. "She is being protective of her husband." In fact, the First Lady has been instrumental in previous staff shakeups.

Among her targets, former National Security advisers Richard Allen and William Clark, Interior Secretary James Watt and ambassador to Austria, Helmut von Durn, once Reagan's private secretary. But friends point out that Nancy Reagan intervenes not over policy but over people who—like Allen, Clark, Watt and von Durn—she feels are badly serving her husband, and because the President cannot bring himself to criticize or fire anyone.

In the President's first term, Nancy

Reagan used to telegraph her—and sometimes her husband's—positions through her closest assistant, then deputy chief of staff Michael Deaver, who left the White House two years ago to become a lobbyist. Conservative Republicans have long regarded Deaver and the First Lady as a joint threat—opponents who have successfully nudged Reagan toward the political center. During the current Iranian arms-sale scandal, Nancy Reagan once

more sought the advice of Deaver, who is currently fighting off a special prosecutor's attempt to indict him on five counts of perjury in connection with his lobbying activities—for the Canadian government, among others.

Some analysts claim that the real reason for Solfe's attack on Nancy Reagan now is that she and Deaver are pressuring the President to conclude an arms-control agreement with the Soviet Union—an action that is opposed by right-wing hard-liners (page 31). Indeed, in a December, 1983, column, Solfe referred to a syndrome that he described as "Nancyism" the last for as a flashy quick-peace-fix to snatch a place in history. But as former senator Howard Baker, her hand-picked candidate as the President's new chief of staff, acknowledged in an unguarded moment last week, "When she gets her hands up, she can be a dragon."

—MARC DONALD in Washington

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Kremlinman (left), counterpart Paul Veroff: Caution applies for Gorbachev's concession

EUROPE

Gorbachev's long reach

It was a clear case of first-strike diplomacy—and the falling was expensive. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's surprise proposal last week to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles (INF) in Europe within five years sent the Western alliance into a diplomatic spin. At last, some members of NATO seemed suspicious of Soviet intentions. But by the end of the week the 12 European members of the 16-country alliance appeared to agree with Canada and President Ronald Reagan that the offer represented too good a chance to be missed. Indeed, on March 4 U.S. negotiators arrived at a considerable portion of the heavier burden within the shortest possible time.

Initial Western reaction to Gorbachev's offer mixed optimism with caution. In Ottawa, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark told the Commons that the

case as Soviet and American negotiators in Geneva noted the end of their seventh round of arms-control talks were March, 1985. There had been no progress since last October, when Gorbachev insisted at his Reykjavik summit meeting with Reagan that a pact on intermediate weapons must be linked to a freeze in development of the U.S. space defense system, known as Star Wars. It was his unexpected lifting of that condition last week that suddenly changed the prospects at Geneva. Announcing his decision, Gorbachev said that there was now a "real" opportunity to free our common European home from a considerable portion of the heavier burden within the shortest possible time.

The many Western European governments, the political atmosphere of an INF treaty had to be balanced against possible military disadvantages. Britain's Margaret Thatcher and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany both said that they viewed the Gorbachev initiative as a step forward on condition that any eventual INF pact contains a solid Soviet commitment

present round of talks for three weeks. Maynard Gittman, the U.S. negotiator on intermediate-range weapons, said that although it might take six months to hammer out a treaty, "between the two groups working together we should have a very good document at the end." As well, President Reagan announced on March 6 that he would restrain the momentum of the Geneva talks by sending Secretary of State George Shultz to Moscow on April 13 for a four-day meeting with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. The President said the talks would remain "the entirety of our relationship, including regional conflicts, human rights and bilateral issues, and to mobilize the progress we have made." And he added, "Most important, I hope the negotiations will result in recommendations to General Secretary Gorbachev and me on further steps we might take in all aspects of our relations, including the Geneva negotiations."

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at the summit talks was "very good news" and cause for celebration. U.S. and NATO spokesmen stressed that there could be no INF treaty without strict rules to prevent cheating—and also agreement to reduce the Warsaw Pact's huge advantage in shorter-range nuclear missiles. But when the Americans produced their draft treaty, which included provisions for rigorous on-site inspection and parity on shorter-range weapons, the Soviets raised no objections, and the way ahead seemed clear. Said Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov: "Our initial reaction to this is very positive. We see things have started to move, and we would like to move them quickly."

Indeed, both sides agreed to extend the



ment to reduce short-range nuclear weapons, as well as chemical arms and conventional forces. The Warsaw Pact greatly accentuates NATO on these fronts.

Indeed, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said last that the Soviet leader was simply agreeing to something that the West had been advocating for six years. That was a reference to President Reagan's 1981 offer of a "zero option," in which the United States would refrain from deploying intermediate missiles in Europe if the Soviets would withdraw theirs already in place. Said Howe of Gorbachev's proposal: "It's not as after it's a response to a long-standing Western offer."

But in Brussels, U.S. Gen. Bernard Rogers, the retiring commander of European NATO forces, said that the zero option was never meant to be taken seriously. "Some people agreed to a zero-option proposal, because they never thought it would be accepted by the Soviet Union," he told the Belgian Royal Institute for International Affairs. Rogers said that agreement on INF without linkage to other issues, such as limiting conventional forces, would seriously threaten the security of Western Europe.

Military leaders at NATO headquarters in Brussels agreed with Rogers' assessment. In off-the-record briefings to journalists, they said that a total withdrawal of intermediate nuclear missiles from Europe could leave the continent dangerously exposed to a crushing Soviet superiority in short-range nuclear weapons and conventional forces. Said one Canadian diplomat at NATO headquarters: "Unilateralism, a zero-option pact, would work out to Moscow's clear advantage. It would strip NATO to its nuclear underpants."

Those sentiments were clearly taken into account by the U.S. negotiating team in drafting its response to Gorbachev's overture. And following a briefing in Ottawa of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Defense Minister Pierre Beatty and the External Affairs minister last Thursday by Paul Nitze, the U.S. special advisor on arms control, Clark assured the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that Canada would continue to offer

its full support for the U.S. negotiating position in Geneva. Still, some leading analysts said that the Soviet threat was overestimated. At the London-based Institute for European Defense & Strategic Studies, disarmament expert Donald Kerr said, "While the current conventional force balance does favor the Warsaw Pact, it is definitely not of the order to encourage the Soviets to start a shooting war." Kerr said that now that an INF pact was a possibility, NATO's commanders found themselves in a strange position to bargain for increased conventional forces, for which they had long been clamoring. Added Kerr: "At the price of its agreement to a nuclear deal, the NATO establishment could now extract a pledge from governments to enhance the alliance's

defensive posture." But for Thatcher, the timing of the Soviet proposal appeared to be a disappointment politically, it had come too soon. For weeks rumors had circulated in Geneva that Gorbachev was preparing to announce a change in Soviet policy on intermediate-range missiles, and Tory strategists were hoping that he would delay his announcement until after Thatcher's visit to Moscow later this month, allowing her to claim some of the credit.

Still, senior Tories said that Gorbachev's proposal would provide an electoral boost for Thatcher, who is expected to go to the polls later this year. She is likely to argue during the election campaign that Gorbachev's willingness to accept the zero option without linking it to SALT II was vindication of Britain's 1982 decision to deploy the missiles and Reagan's refusal at Reykjavik to delay the development of Star Wars. As Howe put it, "The Soviet statement is an eloquent testimony to the firmness and resolve of the alliance."

On the way to Washington at week's end to report progress to President Reagan, the U.S. negotiating team—headed by chief arms negotiator Mike Samuelsman—stopped over in Brussels to brief their

European allies. Clearly, the Europeans were pleased. After the briefing, a senior European diplomat said, "It was a very positive meeting, very satisfactory, one of the best I have been to." Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans expressed what appeared to be the dominant feeling in allied political circles: "No agreement can be perfect, and you must know when to take a chance." He declared, "Given Gorbachev's overtures and the current international climate, that moment could be now."

—KEVIN MCANDREW with BOB LAYNE
in Geneva. PETER LEWIS in Brussels and
FELIX MCKENDEL in Ottawa

The European Missile Balance



conventional profile." Clearly, an agreement with the Soviets would be politically popular throughout Western Europe. European governments looked for public opinion to accept the deployment of 572 U.S. nuclear missiles on their soil beginning in 1983. There are already 318 weapons stationed in Europe, and the astronomical amount has grown. A February poll by The Observer, a leading British daily, found that an average of 65 per cent of those surveyed in Britain, France, Italy and West Germany were opposed to the presence of U.S. intermediate missiles in Europe. Said John Roger, of London's Royal Institute for International Affairs: "It will be politi-

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OPENS MARCH 13th AT SELECTED THEATRES



Russell meeting with understated sexuality

Movie director Rob Marshall wanted the relatively unknown actress Theresa Russell to play the female lead in his steamy 1988 movie, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*. But American-born Russell, 36—who studies on screen in films made by her British director-husband, Nicolas Roeg—did not return Marshall's calls, and the movie made another relatively unknown actress, Jessica Lange, its star. With the recent release of *Black Widow*, the reclusive Russell finally stars in a Roegian movie. Still, Russell says that he and movie costar Debra Winger, 32, who plays a justice department agent in pursuit of Russell's character, had to commute 2000. Century-Fox, which wanted a better-known actress to go with Russell for his part, Russell, 36, says that he has always been attracted to Russell for his simplicity, truthfulness and quite understated sexuality.

Patricia Spence and the evening's entertainment, overshadowed the disabled athletes last week at a \$300-a-plate Toronto fund



Kennedy overshadowed

raiser for this summer's Georgia Games for the Disabled. The 1,200 mostly political and business leaders who went to hear U.S. congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II—recently elected to the House of Representatives—were first treated to a variety show and a parade of fur fashions. They also received a laminated picture of the evening's host, flamboyant North York Mayor Mel Lastman. In his speech, Kennedy, 34, the son of Robert Kennedy, summarized in 1988, returned the focus to disabled athletes. He singled out "the courage and power" of Terry Fox, Glenn Foyle and Rick Hansen, saying, "They have proved that disability isn't a handicap."

Toronto art student Denise Thompson is still in her last year at university, but already she is collecting a second award for her work. Thompson, 22, is one of six winners to be honored in Toronto this weekend at the fifth annual Harry Jerome Awards, which recognize excellence among black Canadians. The awards are named after Jerome, a black Olympic athlete from Prince Albert, Sask., who died at 42 in 1982 last year the young artist, who describes her work as "socially oriented," won a \$5,000 prize in College Arts 1988, a national art competition, for her dramatic



Thompson: poised to win

in painting South African Port Thompson says that her interest in social issues came from growing up in a Toronto neighborhood with many ethnic groups. "I saw that people were experiencing racial discrimination," she said, "and I realized that there was something wrong in Canada."

The moment it was the memory of slain Canadian hockey star on Sept. 28, 1974, with just 34 seconds remaining in the eighth and deciding game against the Soviet Union, Paul Henderson scored the goal that won the series for Canada. This week Henderson, now 44, joins

17 other members of the original Team Canada for "Ralive the Dream," a series of rematches against 18 Soviet veterans of the 1972 team, including goalies Vladimir Yashin, in Montreal, Ottawa and Hamilton. Sid Henderson, who retired from professional hockey in 1984 and now works with Olympic Canada, a Canadian organization. "There's a special rivalry between Canada and the Soviets. The Russians are our enemies, and we know they are great hockey players."

Despite a recent attack of the flu, 1987 Canadian women's figure skating champion Elisabeth Manley says that she is confident as she prepares for the world championships this week in Chamonix. The 21-year-old skater credits her coaches and a sports psychologist with helping her regain her confidence after losing her Canadian title last year. Still the Ottawa native, "I have a hard time keeping calm. I always worry about details I have no control over—such as the size of the audience." Manley, who has been skating competitively for 14 years, says that she is also grateful for her mother's support. "Mom doesn't know the difference between a double and a Salchow," she added, "but she has always been the shoulder for me to lean on."

The Beach Boys—known for a quarter of a century for their distinctive rock harmonies and extensive usage—returned to keep on staging for years to come. Predicted vocalist Bruce Johnston, 44 ("Expect to see us 39 years from now. You don't notice something like the Beach Boys") The group, which celebrates its 25th anniversary with an upcoming 90-minute TV special, has made almost four dozen albums since 1961, in that first single, topped the charts in 1961. Devoted Johnston: "If the Beatles had stayed together, they might still be playing great songs and making new records." He added, "It's so great, so healthy, so comfortable and so profitable."

—Edited by YVONNE CHY

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BUSINESS/ECONOMY

Seeking new salvation

The stage was set for a dramatic announcement in a political show of force, three federal cabinet ministers and six British Columbia Conservative MPPs stood on an open-air platform last week in the North Vancouver headquarters of Versatile Pacific Shipyards Inc. Company officials and a group of unemployed marine workers gathered to hear what must have seemed would be official confirmation from federal Transport Minister John Crosbie that the beleaguered West Coast shipyard would be awarded a \$320-million federal government contract to build a Polar 8 icebreaker. Instead, Crosbie announced that the contract to build the vessel that will patrol Canada's Arctic waters would be awarded to the company only if certain financial and technical requirements were fulfilled. Said John Fitzpatrick, president of the Marine Workers and Builders Industrial Union: "I was hoping we'd have a contract signed, sealed and delivered."

The federal government's caution dramatically focused attention on the financial problems of the shipyard's selling parent company, Versatile Corp. Born during the heady boom times of the late 1970s, Versatile

Corp. was one of British Columbia's most prosperous and adventurous conglomerates. But since the 1985 recession, the once-mighty Versatile Corp.'s fortunes have been sinking, mainly because of depressed commodity prices and a lucrative shipbuilding industry. The slowdown of the company's core businesses has hampered its ability to pay off its estimated \$345-million debt.

The federal government has already given Versatile \$15 million in federal loan guarantees and has negotiated a Polar 8 icebreaker contract with the shipbuilding subsidiary. The contract with Versatile Pacific, which is due to become final later this year, is expected to be worth \$320 million. The 637-foot-long icebreaker, the largest ever built in Canada, will be constructed at Versatile's shipyards in Vancouver and Victoria. Work will begin next year, and the vessel is expected to be launched in 1990.

According to the government's letter of intent, Versatile must guarantee two bonds worth \$100 million. It must also be able to complete the Polar 8 contract on time and within the agreed price. But Versatile Pacific must keep its day-to-day cash management separate from those of its parent.

At least twice the previous experience, Crosbie said that the loan guarantees were provided because Versatile requested financial assistance from the government. Indeed, Crosbie admitted that the B.C. firm would not be able to undertake the Polar 8 contract without help. In 1985 the company lost \$61 million on revenues of \$634 million, and by the end of last year losses jumped to \$82 million on lowered revenues of \$552 million. Staggering from the combined blows of falling revenues and rising debts, Versatile Corp. has been rapidly selling off assets. Six months ago the company swallowed a \$15.5-million loss when it sold Versatile Davis Inc. and Versatile Vickers Inc., two Quebec-based shipyards, and an Ottawa-based engineering firm. And three weeks ago, Winnipeg-based

Versatile Farm Equipment Co., Canada's only tractor manufacturer, announced that the company had been sold for \$200 million to the U.S. company Ford New Holland Inc. The American firm received a \$45.5-million loan from the federal government to purchase the Winnipeg company.

Versatile is now a shell of its former self. It consists of the West Coast shipyards and a 50-per-cent interest in Bralorne Resources Ltd., a Calgary-based company that services the oil and gas rigs. And now, even with the Polar 8 contract secured, there are rumors that Versatile is prepared to sell its shipbuilding subsidiary. Last month two opposing consortiums, Western Shipyards Ltd. and Pacific Rim Shipyards Ltd., made separate offers of between \$10 million and \$20 million to purchase the shipyards—but only if the parent company was the government contractor. Versatile chairman Peter Paul Saunders rejected both bids. But Versatile Pacific president David Ahearn told reporters, "Don't rule out any possibilities."

For its part, the government has played an instrumental role in helping the conglomerate sell its assets. When Versatile sold its eastern shipyards last fall to Marine Industries Ltd. for \$69 million, the federal government granted the buyer a \$25-million loan. But now the federal government may help build a new conglomerate with the Polar 8 contract.

—JANE O'DRABIA in Vancouver with DORIS SMITH in Winnipeg



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Control of the purse strings

Few people have ever heard of Michael Mackenzie—and he would like it to stay that way. The 40-year-old Toronto accountant has spent the past 30 years of his life working for Clarkson Gordon, one of the largest accounting firms in the country. But since mid-February he has been corporate general manager of banks, the federal government's chief bank watchdog. And once legislation introduced in Parliament last week is passed, he will be the federal regulator in charge of all the major financial institutions in the country. Although Mackenzie said that news of his appointment caused the phones in his Toronto office to "jump off the hook," he told *Maclean's* in an interview last week that he hopes the media attention will be short-lived. Dedicated Mackenzie: "I hope my profile is so low I'm not noticed."

For Mackenzie and his staff, the major part of his job means discovering and dealing with trends such as the ones that led to the collapse of the Canadian Commercial and Northland banks in Alberta and a string of trust and insurance company failures before it is too late. Mackenzie's predecessor as treasurer general, William Kennell, resigned a year ago amid negative reviews of his involvement in the bank collapse. It was partly due to his failures that Ottawa reassessed its plans for the financial industry and decided to create the new regulatory position with increased powers. Last week the first of three bills was introduced which, if passed, would give Mackenzie's office the right to take over failing financial institutions to prevent what it perceives to be detrimental management.

The finance department approached Mackenzie in 1993, soon after he received a bachelors in arts in history from the University of Toronto and a master's in business administration from Harvard. But a salary disagreement could not be resolved, and Mackenzie decided to follow in his father's footsteps and become a practicing chartered accountant. During his 30-year career with Clarkson Gordon he

examined the finances of everything from radio stations to soap manufacturers, and for eight years he was involved in the Bank of Canada's final audit. He was a member of the private-sector committee that advised Kennell on banking practices. And former colleague William Buchanan, general director of research at the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants "He's one of the most senior, if

debt, and the investment community is reeling from a series of scandals on Wall Street.

Indeed, Mackenzie said that there may be some major shocks down the line for Canada. Although he cannot guarantee that Canadian institutions will be able to withstand the shocks, Mackenzie said that he will press for good, conservative management and try to stay ahead of industry trends by



Mackenzie: maintaining a low profile, major shocks and good old conservative management

not the most senior, bank auditors in the country."

Mackenzie's life has not all been balance sheets and bottom lines. He likes dogs, tennis and gardens at the 45-year-old farm he owns with his third wife, Jane, near Port Hope, Ont. While in Montreal during the years 1970 to 1978, he was a trustee of the Montreal Museum. As well, Mackenzie is the chairman of the Palliative Care Foundation, which specializes in care for the dying. He took the position after his father and his second wife, Miriam, both died of cancer. Said Mackenzie: "I've got a personal interest."

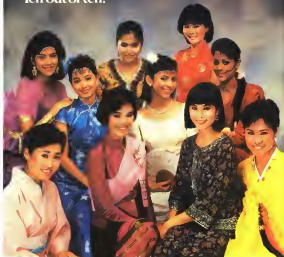
For most bureaucrats, it is an interesting time to witness the post of top financial regulator in Canada. Discrepancies between the services offered by banks, trust companies and other financial institutions are becoming increasingly blurred, the international financial world has been rocked by Brazil's refusal to pay interest on its

developing a network of informal contacts.

Mackenzie says that he plans to keep Kennell's old office in Ottawa but will break with tradition and set up headquarters in Toronto, where most of the companies he will be regulating have their head offices. Although that will mean he will keep his Toronto home and commute each week to Ottawa, the Toronto office was one of the conditions he set for taking on the job. The other was a written agreement from the government that he will be given the resources necessary to perform the complex task of supervising all the major financial institutions. Those resources, Mackenzie plunged into the job on Feb. 16. "I liked the idea of finishing off my career in the public service," he declared, adding, "I know it sounds corny as hell, but I care about this damn country."

—MARIE-LENE DUBOIS in Ottawa

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Dominoes in a grim game of debt

By Peter C. Newman

Canadian bankers, discussing Brazil's decision to suspend indefinitely the interest payments on its \$10-billion bank debt as just another temporary blip on their balance sheets, have not read their history.

It happened once before.

On Aug. 30, 1961, the government of Brazil started already depressed world financial markets by announcing a "partial moratorium" on foreign debt payments. Soon, similar "moratoriums" became national policies of most Central American nations, so that within a year only Argentina, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic were meeting their obligations. In Europe, the Brazilian protest was also used by Hungary, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Poland and Bulgaria to go into default, and Germany, its confidence bolstered by the fanatic Adolf Hitler, later followed.

It was this domino effect of national bankruptcies that proved to be a pivotal influence in pushing the financial world—already crippled by the 1929 stock market crash—into a full-scale depression.

History, of course, never repeats itself exactly, but the circumstances were, if anything, more favorable in the 1960s than they are today. For one thing, the totals were much smaller: then—\$4 billion in total defaults by the end of 1965. And most of the South American loans were, in fact, never repaid. Mexico, for example, paid out only about \$40 million on its \$400-million debt when it re-entered the international financial markets in 1945. But in a 1985 prospectus seeking for a \$60-million loan for Pemex, Mexico's state-owned oil company, the government claimed that "full debt service has been paid when due upon all the external debt issued by the federal government of Mexico since the adoption of the constitution of 1917."

Unlike the 1930s crisis, which touched individuals more than banks, the current shakedown has to do entirely with financial institutions. On a proportionate basis, Canada's six largest banks face claims for \$1.9 billion, or underdeveloped countries larger than the debts owed banks in the United States—a total for potential default that exceeds \$35 billion. They have put aside in their reserve accounts a paltry \$3 billion to cover those contingencies, although other standby funds would

presumably be available, and, of course the assets of the six Canadian banks total a solid \$611.3 billion. The Canadian banking system may be under siege, but it is not in danger.

To the current grim picture must be added the possibility of the impending collapse of Calgary's Dome Petroleum, which owes five Canadian banks more than \$3 billion in the first nine months of the past fiscal year, which ended Dec. 31, 1985. It lost \$693 million, and



Sampe, with a desperate invocation

circumstances have not improved since then. Some Swiss note holders have taken Dome to court to recover a total of \$103,000, and the Bayerische Landesbank of West Germany has placed a senior mortgage on getting a \$400,000 Dome loan paid off. Unless a magic escape hatch is found, that could trigger demands for the repayment of the company's entire \$6.3 billion debt. That, in turn, would lead to the collapse of the whole Dome of cards.

Adding together only the Dome and

Third World obligations produces the following account for Canada's major banks of dubious debts outstanding: Bank of Montreal, \$4.8 billion; Royal Bank, \$6 billion; Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, \$4.2 billion; Scotiabank, \$4.8 million; Toronto-Dominion, \$3.8 billion; National, \$2.5 billion. Some of those loans are secured, and, as of this writing, no country except Brazil has announced its intention to suspend interest payments so that there are potential rather than real liabilities. At the same time, the Canadian banks are already carrying about \$10 billion in bad loans on their books from other sources, mainly Alberta's Oil Patch.

Other South and Central American countries are sure to follow Brazil's example. Mexico, with its \$17 billion in foreign debts (including \$7.3 billion to Canadian banks), has already once threatened to stop its interest payments, that crisis was only averted when the International Monetary Fund arranged for \$5 billion in emergency bridging. This week the Mexican government will be back asking for \$3.2 billion more. Argentina is demanding that \$3.8 billion of its loans be rewritten, while Venezuela and Chile are known to have their rescheduling request in the works.

Paradoxically, Brazil's economy is among the most prosperous in the region. Its gross domestic product last year was \$280 billion and trade is healthy, although inflation is expected to reach a runaway 800 per cent. The first civilian leader after more than two decades of military rule, President José Sarney from Pernambuco, holds. He is attempting to ease out the kind of popular constituency required to make democracy function—and he cannot do that with the austerity measures being demanded by his international creditors.

The national crises are threatening strikes unless they receive hefty pay increases, and industrialists are openly ignoring the government's pricing policies. Sarney's domestically elected assembly is filled with members of parliament clamoring for more spending on behalf of their underprivileged constituents.

When the Brazilian president announced the current moratorium on debt repayment, he concluded his speech with a desperate invocation: "May God help us."

Ames



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Spring and clearer predictions ahead

By the end of February there was so much snow in St. John's that the Newfoundland Light and Power Co. Ltd. warned children against tobogganing on roadside snowbanks. In some cases the snow was piled dangerously close to overhead power lines. On average, Newfoundlanders counted a record eight feet of snow during January and February. Meanwhile, citizens of Victoria were engaged in a court of a different kind, spotting early-blooming flowers and reporting their findings to the local Chapter of Coconuts. By the end of the month a tulip bed in the window of Eaton's downtown store declared a total of 30,687,878 blossoms in the Pacific city.

Unlike their Atlantic counterparts, most Canadians are enjoying a much milder than usual winter with measured amounts of sunshine and savings on heating costs ranging from five per cent in southern Ontario to 30 per cent in the West. But few are clanking their local weathermen, who come to mind more often when they are wrong than when they are right. Still, the fact remains that in the 1980s forecasts are usually accurate. Indeed, better understanding of complex global weather systems coupled with some of the most powerful computers in existence have greatly improved weather forecasting over the past two decades. Says Ian Rutherford, director general of weather services for Environment Canada, "Where computer forecasting became possible in the early '60s, you couldn't make a valid forecast beyond a day or two. Now we routinely go to five to six days."

The Canadian weather establishment goes a step further in extending by the end of the century its forecasting range beyond a mere week and to improve prevailing standards of accu-

cy. Environment Canada forecasters say that their predictions are 98-per-cent correct over a two-day period, only 80-per-cent accurate for a five-day forecast. Still, according to Toronto-based meteorologist David Phillips, "We could look the books to make it look like 90 to 95 per cent." Rutherford adds that such improve-

ments are now available. But consistently with all the weather observations made throughout the Northern Hemisphere, including computer data from at least seven satellites and hundreds of radar stations and weather balloons, the machine creates a detailed model of the atmosphere and routinely extends its forecast six days into the future.

That forecast is then transmitted to regional centers, where meteorologists use it to help predict local conditions.

The system was most recently upgraded in December with a more advanced computer, but Rutherford said that the system could use several times as much power as it has. More power would allow forecasters to use a more detailed model of the atmosphere that, in turn, would produce more accurate, longer-range forecasts.

Another factor limiting the quality of Canadian forecasts is the country's thin network of weather stations. There are 500 in Canada from which observations are reported hourly and another 30 where balloons are launched twice a day with instruments that sample the upper atmosphere. By contrast, the United States has more than twice as many stations covering a smaller land mass. It launches about 500 balloons every day and has several hundred radar stations compared with Canada's 15.

Despite these advantages, the forecasts created by the U.S. National Weather Service's Cyber 85 supercomputer are comparable to those produced in Montreal. But nowhere have computers completely replaced human forecasters, says Phillips. "The general view of the science is such that you still need trained professionals to interpret what the computer is telling you." Indeed, large-scale computer forecasts are still responsible for discouraging all the smaller, fast-developing weather systems that are most often responsible for such co-

astrophages as flash floods and tornadoes.

The difficulty of creating detailed local forecasts from global computer models has helped to create a new, yet forecasting industry in the United States. Since the National Weather Service in Washington began making weather information available to computer users in 1983, the number of private weather firms has grown from a handful to about 30 in Canada, the growth of private forecasting has been slower. According to Mary Hirt, president of Toronto-based World Weather Watch Ltd., that is partly because Knowledge Canada still gives out regional forecasts and, as well, Canadian industry has been slow to recognize the extra value of customized services. Still, Hirt says that his firm is thriving. By making forecasts based on U.S., Canadian and European data, it serves clients as diverse as Transwestern, California, an information service for U.S. farmers, and Gulf Resources Canada Ltd., which needs detailed local forecasts to schedule drilling activity in the Beaufort Sea. According to Rutherford, Environment Canada is "trying like hell to get the Canadian private sector to do more of this business."

One additional piece of information that Knowledge Canada is considering making public is its Experimental Climate Forecast, which it has been testing on 140 clients over the past year. The current long-range forecast calls for a spring much like the winter just past: temperatures above normal in Western and Central Canada and below normal in the Maritimes and Newfoundland. In attempting to predict whole seasons ahead, the weather service is entering terrain previously monopolized by pseudoscientific almanacs and fortune-tellers. But it only claims a 65-per-cent accuracy for the forecast—not much better than a coin toss but a significant improvement over predictions made only 10 years ago.

Another rule-of-thumb indicator used by Canadian forecasters is the Climate Severity Index. Canada's first such meteorologist, Phillips, published three years ago. The index assigned some Newfoundlanders by concluding that among major cities St. John's had the most severe weather and Victoria the mildest. But even though nature has proved him right with frequency this year, the weatherman refuses to rebuttal in the words of Atlantic residents David Phillips. "Three St. John's will have more snow weather after the ice melts off than in June."

—JOHN BARBER, with WILLIAM LUTHER in Washington, DAVID LUCKSON in Vancouver and GAIL WHITE in St. John's

Clever weather clowns

They are the masters of television journalism, weather forecasters who deliver predictions sprinkled with jokes, puns and comic routines. William Scott, the popular search-engine on CBC's *Today* show, recently sat his hairpiece on fire last year while delivering a birthday cake to a 30-year-old guest on the show. And at KABC-TV in Los Angeles, weatherman Gorman Freshlock once brought a lion and a lamb into the studio to enter in the first day of March. Some clever predictions, including powerfully

er on the first CBC TV broadcast, from Toronto, that day. It featured Saltzman bantering with two hand-puppet characters named Uncle Christmas and his name, Holybook.

Saltzman, now 58, made his debut wearing a simple beard to short approaching hair and later. And in 1983 he began using the phrase that became his trademark: eating the forecast by tossing a piece of chalk into the air, then catching it. Saltzman acknowledges that he deliberately missed the chalk on occasion to bright-



Meteorologist Gorman Freshlock is a blend of showmanship and informed predictions.

as broadcaster Percy Saltzman, are trained meteorologists as well as performers, but weather forecasters have self-imposed rules on U.S. and Canadian TV news programs. Says Douglas Miller, a forecaster at the independent Vancouver TV station CTV: "The weatherman comes in after 20 minutes of bad news. He is a joker with a pointer in his hand, and when he's finished you go back to the top line."

On-air weather forecasting has been a blend of showmanship and informed predictions since the earliest days of television. Indeed, New York City station WNBC broadcast the world's first TV weather forecast on Oct. 9, 1941, as part of a commercial for wrinkle-free women ties. It included an animated cartoon of a hand and an on-screen announcer who related weather bulletin and informed weather predictions. And weather's modern beginnings in Canada on Sept. 8, 1952. In fact, Saltzman launched a 30-year career in broadcasting by forecasting the weather

on interest. But these planned missteps pale in comparison to the outrageous stunts that have earned TV forecasters one-to-eight million in television.

Scott, for one, took a modest pointed board to relay his reports. But the board is usually covered with such person figures as your hair, toothbrush, old frosty from Canada, and Scott mountain appear wearing outlandish costumes. Early in his career on Feb. 3, 1968—he dressed up as a groundhog and then appeared on-camera giving his head out of a manhole while looking for his shadow. David Scott, who has worked as a TV weatherman for 20 years, "I am not-dumb and 800 lb of cured Virginia ham." In the same way, Montreal broadcaster Don McGowan once updated a hairy weather forecast while loyal fans in bathing suits appeared on the street, and Scott—slapping snow left by an unexpected blizzard.

McGowan, 48, has been delivering weather reports at Montreal's CTV-aff-

hints, CROP TV, for the past 35 years, and local critics say that his irreverent approach has helped him become the city's most widely watched weatherman. But McGowan says that he rarely indulges in such offbeat gimmicks as doing the weather dressed in a suit and loose shorts. Declared McGowan, "I once put a nightgown a week at the mall, but people seem to remember that and think I do it every night. Let's face it, giving the weather without a change of pace could get pretty boring night after night."

Bull, he and other colorful broadcasters, including Vancouver's Norman Grohman, say that they do not let their comical routines distort the information they present. Saul McGowan "You can fool with anything else, but do not mess with the facts. People want to know what kind of weather to expect." For his part, Grohman, 54, appears five days a week on News Now, BC's daytime news program. And though he sometimes appears in costume—during the weather in drag last Halloween—he is more intent on damage a proven-effective program with the highest ratings in British Columbia. Added Grohman, "People love to see me looking silly, but it's not the Norm Grohman comedy hour."

Instead, Grohman spends up to three hours each day preparing for his nightly four-minute segment. He does so by gathering computer-generated information on weather conditions across the country and by studying charts and satellite photographs from Environment Canada. Along with many other successful broadcasters, including Toronto weatherman David Davies on CTV affiliate CTV2, Montreal's McEwen and Scott's Scott, Grohman has learned to analyze weather data on the job. Declared Grohman, who first appeared on CTV in 1970, "I have been doing this long enough to become comfortable with the terminology."

Although inexperienced journalists graduate into the air in a matter of a few weeks, the weather is a little different. Last week at 35 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease, the country lost one of the breed of writer-publi-shers whose masterful skills appear to grow effortlessly out of their journalistic expertise. Declared former Canadian Press general manager and longtime friend Gail (Gail) Porcell, "When you're good a publisher who's a good newspaper- owner, what more do you want?"

As a publisher who loved to travel, Kente was "a bad-boy-with-out-kind-of-cry," said Porcell. He was a superb storyteller whose gift for description informed the pages of every publication for which he worked. Declared Porcell, "The last thing about Stu was that he was well-informed and a fast thinker."

Legacy of lively words

The title of his 1980 autobiography, *Paper Boy*, was more a comment on his total immersion in the newspaper business than a reminder of a back-of-the-job. For 42 years James Stuart (Stu) Kente pursued the sort of newspaper career that Hollywood has long romanticized. He parlayed a summer reporting job to the top posts at two of British Columbia's largest newspapers. And when the former publisher of the *Vancouver Daily Times* and the *Vancouver Sun* died

And Kente rejoined in the ability that allowed him to master with the fawning and enthusiasm and spite a pair about it later. As a publisher, he was strong but compassionate. Saul Montreal Gazette publisher Clark Duny, who took over the *Sun* when Kente retired in 1993 "He came across like a marshmallow, but there was a hint of steel."

Kente's first full-time job, as a sports reporter for the *Vancouver Province*, was followed by stints at The *Vancouver Star*, *Post* Inc. in New York and *Time* magazine's Montreal bureau. In 1960 he was hired as publisher of the *Daily Times* and in 1964 appointed publisher of the *Sun*. As Kente recalled in *Paper Boy*, "The challenge was nothing less than a complete change in its character and personality," which he answered as "pasty and aggressive, but nonetheless erratic and strongly partisan."

His goal was to soften the paper's transformation, but Duny said that, while he replaced Kente, the publication was still "a brash, opinionated, sensationalist newspaper." Kente's sagacity with high-stakes subjects led to a long-running feud with Richard Malouf, ex-Publication's hard-line general manager. "Stu knew that you had to pay for credibility," said Porcell. Malouf, Kente said, "reminded me of one of those aging journalists in a Shell Chevrolet play who bursts through the French door, crying, 'Warrior, warrior!'"

For all Kente's irreverence, his integrity as a journalist was never in question. He turned down a Liberal Senate appointment in 1996 because he said that his acceptance would compromise the *Sun's* independence. During his career he served as president of The Canadian Press in 1964 and 1965 and was elected to the Canadian News Hall of Fame in 1974. But he was down to earth about his accomplishments. Declared former *Sun* employee and Kente's editor-in-chief, Alan Patterson, "He knew that newspapers are only as good as their writers. He was the hub of the great publishers who had ever seen the inside of a typesetter."

—MARY MEYER in Toronto



Kente: a newspaperman of wit, wisdom and elegance

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The Expos face a season without stars

On Interstate 95 North, it is only a 20-hour drive from West Palm Beach, Fla., to the exclusive residential community of Heathrow. But the Montreal Expos at their spring training camp in West Palm and free agent Tim Lincecum at his new home at Heathrow are separated by more than time and distance. Like other players and other teams, they are divided by the most heated dispute between major-league baseball owners and their employees since the 1981 players' strike: *Stad Expos* general manager Marv Cook. "There are real problems, and the free agents of our players, Baines and Andre Dawson, is only one of them."

On the surface, the summer game appears as pastoral and unadorned as ever. Attendance was at record levels last season, and tourists last week again flocked to training camps in Arizona and Florida. But the unsplashed surface was misleading. Just one of the game's 26 teams made a profit or broke even in 1995. The major U.S. TV networks carrying the games—one and six—are facing money on the broadcast and now want to lower their payments on the last half of their six-year, \$1.1-billion contracts. Meanwhile, the owners face two grievances by the players' association, which claims that they are acting in collusion to restrict free agents. And at week's end, the American League's top pitcher in 1996, Roger Clemens of the Boston Red Sox, walked out of camp demanding \$1.3 million for the season. The team had offered \$600,000. *Stad Expos* chief executive officer John McHale: "Baseball is a risky business, and it's becoming more of a business and less of a pleasure."

As the Expos worked out between claudens last week, Baines tossed a

ball around with a group of high-school players at a field five kilometres from his home. The man who led the National League in hitting last season with a .334 average is unemployed. Under the collective bargaining agreement, the Expos cannot negotiate with Baines until May 1, almost a

year. Yankees pitcher Ron Gandy—the candidate problem is money that the larger issue is whether freedom is still a part of free agency. Said Baines, "I don't think there is freedom. Three years ago guys were signed long before spring training. Now a series we are penalized for leaving free agents."

When the system came into effect in 1976, the owners could not spend enough. Superstars—and many mediocre players—became instant millionaires. But the dream ended last year when the sale top-quality free agent, Detroit outfielder Kirk Gibson, did not receive a single offer.

This year the most talented group of free agents ever is receiving the same treatment. All have spurned their team's contract offers—Baines rejected an Expos contract of \$4.8 million for three years. In fact, former Expo outfielder Dawson last week signed with the Chicago Cubs for a guaranteed \$540,000—half the \$1-million salary Montreal had offered. Said Baines, who earned \$1.5 million last season: "I had my last year, and the Expos offered a smaller raise than I had received before. We're entertainers. Nobody complains about what Lionel Richie makes from a concert, but we are called players. The owners are trying to buy a Roda-Royce for the price of a Mercedes." At week's end Baines left Florida to talk with four teams—the Houston Astros, California Angels, Atlanta Braves and San Diego Padres.

The players' union claims that the owners are trying to hold salaries down and assist the movement of free agents. The owners claim that they are simply exercising fiscal responsibility and that the free agents misjudged the market. *Stad Cook*: "If the pre-1980 situation col-



Lincecum in West Palm Beach last week suddenly died in a league-wide sale.

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Catcher Jeff Reed with manager, Rodgers; Houston (below) penalized for becoming a free agent

and, it would have been disastrous. The owners had done some crazy, crazy things, and they finally realized it."

As the free agents walked last week, their former teammates adjusted to their absence. Rapos (30) became Tim Wallach suddenly found himself,

at 29, cast in a leadership role. Said Wallach: "There are a lot of young guys on this team, and if I'm negative, it'll have an effect. I won't give up until we're out of the present mess."

With Raines and Dawson, the team leader in home runs and runs batted in, the Rapos finished 28th among behind the New York Mets, the division, league and eventual World Series champions. Said Rapos manager Bud Rodgers, preparing his team for opening day on April 6: "You do feel helpless. But there's nothing you can do about it."

When the exhibition season ends, the Rapos will play 10 road games before returning to Montreal. The delay will allow time for installation of the retractable roof—planned for the 1995 Olympic Games—at Olympic Stadium. And they hope to arrive with a healthy Mike Brooks and Mike Fitzgerald. Kharitap Brooks, 36, was leading the

league in batting when he injured his left thumb last Aug. 1. He missed the rest of the season following surgery to reattach a ligament. Said Brooks, after a painless batting session last week: "Without Tim and Andre, we know that we're going to have to put



some numbers up."

Fitzgerald, 35, was lost to the Rapos the same day Brooks was injured. One of the game's best defensive catchers, Fitzgerald was hitting .352 when he fractured his right index finger. The injury required immediate surgery and a second operation to remove a calcium deposit last month. But the second operation forced the Rapos to seek catcher insurance. Last Feb. 8 the team sent Rapos to relief pitcher Jeff Beards—\$5.75 million in 1996—to St. Louis to return for Twins left-handed starter Nial Houston, 32, and catcher Jeff Reed, 34.

Last year, despite a roster that included Raines, Dawson and Beards, the Rapos lost more than \$5 million, attracting slightly more than 1.1 million spectators. The team heading back to Montreal for the home opener on April 20 will be without its main attractions. Said McFale: "I predicted in 1995 that free agency would adversely affect baseball in Canada. When a player reaches a certain level of income and notoriety and wants to go elsewhere to capitalize on it, that puts Canadian clubs at a disadvantage."

The Blue Jays have yet to lose a key player to free agency. But their recent million-dollar-plus signings of outfielders George Bell and Jesse Barfield, and the brief without last week of reliever Tim Lincecum, are portents of the future in McFale. "Once a player has one good year, there's a problem with him from this point on," said McFale, who was with the Rapos when they were formed in 1969. "I don't dispute Tim's or Andre's right to become free agents. I just wonder if it's in their best interests."

As the season approaches, baseball interest in Montreal remains focused on the absent Rapos. Said Wallach: "We were supposed to be the team of the 1980s, and that didn't work out. I just don't know if the fans in Montreal are as disappointed that they've given up."

The players have not, but as they limbered up last week they also knew that without Raines and Dawson, the 1987 season promises to be a very long one indeed.

—RAL QUINN in West Palm Beach



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A troubadour's tracks into the heartland

Sixteen years that is how long it has been since Gordon Lightfoot visited the Lakeside. But when he stepped onto the stage of the Thunder Bay community conference two weeks ago the audience of 1,500 people greeted him like a long-lost brother.

Here's a special song for all those people around the Great Lakes," said Lightfoot, looking quiet and accessible under the spotlight. Then, with a smile as ghostly as a haggard dream, the five-man backup band eased into *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*. Lightfoot's haunting ballad about the ship that sank 29 sailors to the depths of Lake Superior 15 years ago. Later that night a small executive jet soared off the runway at Thunder Bay and landed outward over Superior's blackness. At the back of the aircraft's narrow cabin, the singer a cigarette and allowed himself a cautious smile of satisfaction.

The master craftsman of the Canadian song is on the road again. Singing about the beauty of the land—and the wilderness of the heart—Lightfoot is breathing new life into a legend that now spans a quarter-century. The 45-year-old troubadour has just embarked on a tour that will touch down in 40 cities across North America, winding up in Europe next year. This week he plays his 50th-anniversary concert at Toronto's Massey Hall, a home-town engagement that has become an annual ritual.

But his recent decision to retire from both songwriting and recording sends an explicit signal to the current tour: "When your album isn't selling," he told *Weekend*, "it's not practical for a man to spend his life chained to a desk and in a recording studio. You have to grow up and realize that there is a new generation of recording artists out there."

Lightfoot's distinctive voice cuts like a hardwood keel through several generations of pop music, from the 1960s folk era that spawned Bob Dylan, to the synthesized 1980s stylings of Canadian record producer David Foster. In fact, the Foster-produced song *Anytime for Love* is one of two singles from Lightfoot's 17th album, *East of Midnight*, which recently topped a 40th-anniversary chart. Still, although he has sold more than 10 million albums over his career, Lightfoot has not scored a major Top 40 hit since his 1974 song *Summer Days*. Clearly, he is growing weary of trying.

Meanwhile, he remains the most ac-

cessful songwriter living in Canada. With his steady index of royalties, he would have retired years ago as a millionaire. His albums of original songs still generate considerable royalties. And the diverse list of artists who have recorded his work includes Dylan, Elton Presley, Anne Murray, Barbara Streisand, Harry Belafonte, Johnny Cash and Anne Newton-John. During his career Lightfoot has received the Order of Canada, four Grammy nominations, 16 Juno awards—and was inducted into the Juno Hall of Fame. "Gordon is completely ballad," said singer-songwriter Murray McLachlan. "He can spin a great story—in the folk sense—and write bittersweet ballads that are very poignant."

Despite the accolades, Lightfoot still seems uncomfortable with his celebrity status. He rarely consents to interviews,



Lightfoot in Ottawa: a multi-century

crackles being photographed and accepts few offers to make TV appearances. But his paley temporarily paralyzed the left side of his face in 1972 and, although he has recovered, he still dreads the close scrutiny of a camera lens. He also resents public intrusions into his private life, which has been a source of controversy. His 1974 divorce from his wife, Brita, made headlines as the earliest settlement in Canadian history.

His past reinforced in the media when a former girlfriend, Cathy Smith, was convicted last September

of involuntary manslaughter for administering a fatal heroin and cocaine overdose to co-musical John Belushi five years ago. "People keep asking me about him," Lightfoot complained. "But the worst part is that stuff when we were together I had with her for three years. And that was 12 years ago. It's nobody's business."

Lightfoot is now single, having recently separated from his girlfriend, Cathy Cowley. After abandoning marriage plans last year, they share custody of their five-year-old son, Eric. "I've always had a terrible time deciding whether to get married," said Lightfoot. "I would like to, if someone would have me." Once notorious as a heavy drinker, Lightfoot has abstained from alcohol for more than four years and jogs five kilometers every other day.

He lives alone in a Toronto mansion in Toronto's old-money enclave of Rosedale. Outside, with dirt-covered peeling from the front pillars, the house looks uninvited and slightly forbidding inside, it resembles a well-worn man's club dark and smoky, with a vast living room of plush leather chairs and an adjoining billiard room. Lightfoot is an unassuming man in a simple wicker desk, which has served as Lightfoot's songwriting altar for much of his career. He also writes on an unscrupled typewriter in the corner of the house. "The way it reverts back to the typewriter," it gives me memories. It tells me things."

In an interview, Lightfoot tends to look to the side, staring into a middle distance. Often defensive in his answers, he comes across as a man who

has a reputation to protect and consolidate. In fact, last month he launched a lawsuit against Michael Manser, who wrote *Whispering Willows* but *The Greatest Love of All*. Lightfoot charged that Manser stole 28 bars from the melody of his 1969 hit *If You Could*

enough to know better. With *East of Midnight*, his first album in three years, he had hoped to appeal to the younger Top 40 market. But even the slick pop ballad *Anytime for Love* failed to break out of the easy-listening market. Still, Lightfoot says, "I'm

more resonant back through the years with fidelity, rendering the images of *Whispering Willows* with a delicate grace, the way a long song to me is a long song for the rhythms of *The Canadian Railroad*. Through Lightfoot covers a lot of ground. One moment he is folk music's answer to Pierre Berton, singing an epic history about natives and mining. The next, his voice paints watercolor patterns of "pussy willows, cattails, soft winds and rain."

The new Lightfoot show puts a stronger accent on folk music. Never picking up an electric guitar, he switches back and forth between a pair of acoustic instruments. His band remains obediently in the background, and he performs some of his new songs solo. But there is a hint of change when he picks down his guitar and sings *Anytime for Love* with a hard-bell rhapsodic, Lightfoot smiles across the stage. Stratos-style and crows, accompanied by funk synthesizers and feathered harmonies—a tape of Foster's pre-recorded instrumental tracks.

Lightfoot's loyal band can afford the industry he has made them one of the best-paid groups of musicians in Canada, most earning regular salaries according to \$50,000 a year whether they play or not. In fact, before the current tour, they were paid for an 18-month gap. On the road, they travel in a rented limousine, and Lightfoot pays all restaurant and bar bills. "He's exceptionally generous," said band player Rick Haynes, an 18-year veteran of the band. But Lightfoot is a stern taskmaster, dressed in a small detail. "He can be intimidating," said drummer Barry Keane, "although he doesn't ask anything of us that he doesn't demand of himself. He has a lot of old-fashioned values—hard work and honesty."

The singer's outlook reflects an small-town upbringing in Orillia, Ont. His father, now dead, worked as a manager at a dry-cleaning plant. His mother recognized her son's talent early and had him singing on local radio shows by the age of 4. At a fourth-grader, he cut his first record, *Brisk Lumber*, for broadcast over his school's public-address system. Lightfoot taught himself guitar, then left home at 16 to take a music course in London. On his return to Canada, he diligently pursued a performing career which took him from drumming in a dance band to square dancing on CBC TV's *Country Hour*.

Meanwhile, in the coffeehouse halls of Toronto's Yorkville, Lightfoot kicked his talent to the front row of the folk movement. In the early 1960s he performed at the *Starbuck* in Yorkville, meeting Jon Mitchell, Neil Young, Ian and Sylvia, Leonard



On the docks in Thunder Bay: tracing the careful scrutiny of the camera lens

And my friend, "I heard his song when I was down at the gym one day," said Lightfoot, "and it really rubbed me the wrong way. I don't want the present-day generation to think that I stole his song from him."

Most Lightfoot listeners are old

happy to be getting the story. "I'm getting the message—that's my crowd, people from 20 to 40."

In Thunder Bay the boozers are out in force. Their applause warms over the opening notes of one familiar song after another. The ready Lightfoot

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Cohen and other future stars. With Ian and Dylan's 1965 recording of *Early Morning Rain*, Lightfoot scored his first hit as a songwriter, followed by Peter, Paul and Mary's popular rendition of *For Lewis' Me*. Then, in 1968, after signing with Dylan's U.S. manager, Albert Grossman, Lightfoot launched his own recording career.

He still cites Dylan as his major influence and favorite songwriter. But Lightfoot's enduring admiration for his friend masks a tendency to minimize his own stature. "I'm not as gifted as he is," he said. But Lightfoot has occasionally fared with Dylan's hide-and-seek style of lyric writing. In a during those of poetry, the new album's *A Lesson in Love* refers to "those two con-sumed jugglers, the Eyes and the Id." More often, his lyrics are descriptive, confessional and accessible.

Managing his own career for the past 17 years, he has avoided the American star-maker machine. Toronto promoter Bernie Fiedler, who first hired him to play the Evergreen in 1965 and remains a close friend, said "I don't think Gordon realizes that he has a tremendous talent. When somebody of the music business started him, he felt threatened. He's a cautious man who won't take chances."

Lightfoot takes pride in his self-reliance. "I'm very fastidious," he said. "And there's a lot of details to take care of. But I don't need people looking after me or driving me around." Aside from the Rosebush reunion and the related get-together he says are mainly for convenience—his pleasures are relatively simple. In fact, he is a veteran of 10 marathon canoe trips through the wilderness, five of them ending in the Arctic Ocean. "I've seen all aspects of Canada," he said. "Christ, I drove a load of raises off the way to the Yukon once...."

It is an hour east of midnight—and Thunder Bay—when the *Leasit* touches down in Toronto. Soon, Lightfoot gently places a pair of guitars in the trunk of his Oldsmobile. He will head back to the empty mansion and then pick up his five-year-old from school the next day. In the months ahead he more concerts and probably another canoe trip. He might even reconsider his decision not to record again. "With the renewed interest in folk," says Lightfoot, "I'm not out of the question that I could have a comeback. It's iffy." As the lyrics in his own *A Lesson in Love* say, "Nothing is for certain, that's what the showman said." But whatever he decides, the Lightfoot legend will continue to ride a steel rail all its own.

—BLAIN D. JOHNSON in Thunder Bay



Edgar Degas: Course de gentlemen, avant le départ

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On a killer's trail

On a subway-station wall and in store windows and telephone booths across Toronto, posters confront passers-by with a haunting reminder of a brutal and still-unsolved child murder. Now, more than seven months after 11-year-old Alison Perrott disappeared from her central Toronto home, many of the posters have become torn and stained. But beneath the (distasteful) of a police, well-groomed girl, a plea for information returns its urgency. It reads: "Did you see Alison? Please think back to Friday, July 25." Indeed, Metropolitan Toronto Police Insp David Boothby suggests that clues buried in a mountain of evidence gathered since that time might eventually lead police to Alison's killer. Read Boothby: "I am optimistic that this case will be solved. We've done hard work, but there's still hard work ahead."

Boothby and 21 other homicide investigators assigned to the case have painstakingly reconstructed the Grade 5 pupil's movements in last July 25, when the building truck first received a tele-

phone call that lured her to a downtown meeting with a man posing as a sports photographer. Two days after her disappearance two boys found her nude, strangled and sexually abused body in a heavily wooded riverside park in the west end of the city.

Asking the police in their quest is a

Clues buried in a mountain of evidence gathered since her death might eventually lead police to Alison's killer

\$250,000 computer program that performs such specialized functions as searching data from more than one million bits of information already collected. And the police have evidence that indicates Alison kept her rendezvous with her killer. The videotape from a security camera in a downtown bank shows Alison walking past the

building, near her intended meeting place, just minutes before she was to be there.

Boothby is familiar with the frustrating task of trying to catch a child-killer. In addition to his involvement in the Perrott case, he has helped search for Nicole Martin, a nine-year-old child who disappeared on July 28, 1985, after leaving her apartment in suburban Etobicoke to meet a playmate and go swimming at a nearby pool. She has not been found, and police say that they have no new leads in the case. Clearly, the routine nature of many child murders only compounds the difficulties faced by police. Read Boothby: "An organized crime murder may be difficult to solve, but there's always a motive, a reason."

Still, detectives seeking Alison's killer say that widespread distribution of the bank picture might jog the memories of witnesses who saw Alison meet her abductor on a busy downtown street. Meanwhile, investigators have interviewed more than 30,000 people since the girl's death, and operations on three telephone hotlines installed to collect tips and information on the case are still taking calls between 7 a.m. and midnight each day.

—WALCUMB GRANT with DAVID THOMAS in Toronto

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SHOW BUSINESS

The apostle of hip from Thunder Bay

He is short, and he settles too much. Light gleams off his balding head. "A gerbil on Velma," Washington Post reporter Deena Hines once called him. Yet Paul Shaffer, 37—the amiable, schmaltzy bandleader of rock's *Late Night* with David Letterman—has also been described as "the biggest cat in America." On camera,

including comedians Martin Short and Eugene Levy—most that Shaffer in only half mocking the trademark performance he imitates. Shaffer himself says that he has been fascinated with Vegas lounge life since his parents took him for a visit when he was 13. "I love that stuff," he told *Maclean's* recently, relaxing in his Rockefeller Center dress-

ing room—lounge-themed comedy sketches. He also served as musical director of Don Aylford and John Belushi's *Blues Brothers* routines.

By the time Letterman's talk show was a short following, Shaffer's *Toughie Silver* on *Comedy* was known as both a comic and one of the city's most accomplished session musicians. For the Letterman



Shaffer subversively sincere, with the looks of 'a gerbil on Velma'.

show, Shaffer has assembled a remarkably versatile studio band—bass player Will Lee, guitarist Ed McGovern and drummer Aaron Fug. They are as eclectic a crew of musicians as the industry has known. Letterman has an aversion (albeit thin) to remembering to show up. But their musicianship is unquestioned. They have backed such stars as New Orleans, James Brown and Bryan Adams, sometimes with less than 30 minutes of rehearsal. Shaffer boasts that he has now played with every one of his teenage rock idols. "Now," he adds, "they're requesting to come play with us."

For years Shaffer proved his ability to reproduce side-perfect versions of other people's songs. But he is actively considering recording an album that would contain some original material. Said Shaffer: "It would be the first time

Shaffer sits keeping some cool company. He sang on Canada's 1985 *There Are Not Enough* all-star record for television, famous only and last July organized a jazz session with Pat Donato, Ray Charles and Jerry Lee Lewis that aired on *Comcast*, a US pay TV network. Shaffer currently appears as *Music* host Don Johnson's bass-line music video, playing the part of Johnson's best friend, Lenny. And in May he will act out his fondest show-biz fantasy, when *Comcast* airs *Viva Shaf!* What, a one-hour comedy special, it follows Shaffer as he sets out on what he calls "a humorous odyssey" through the night life of Las Vegas to find himself.

For the past five years, as musical director of television's most popular late-night talk show, Shaffer has played a gentle parody of *Mr. Show Business*, all schmaltz and schmaltz. Each night he welcomes Letterman on to the set with lines like "G'd Dave, we've got a great show here tonight."

Then, greiving from behind his Hammond organ, he banters with the host in a campy echo of the nightclub headliners of the past. "Delighted to be here Dave."

For all the irony, his close friends—

ing room after taping the 500th episode of *Late Night*. "It's show business at its finest." He also has childhood memories of how his love for rock 'n' roll first blossomed—and how he got onto his classical piano books to sound out versions of black soul music that he had heard on U.S. radio.

Shaffer left Thunder Bay in 1969 to study sociology at the University of Toronto. After graduation he won a part playing piano for the Toronto production of the musical *Godspell*—joining a cast that included Short, Levy, Dave Thomas, Andrea Martin and Gilda Radner. In 1970 Michaels hired him as pianist for *Saturday Night Live*, where he appeared success playing piano backup to Ed Murray's unforgettably

that I would have to commit to something I'd have to stand behind." *Viva Shaf!* Vegas marks another turning point, a chance, he says, to get the Vegas obsession behind him. As for being the unlikely embodiment of hip, he admits that it tickles him. "I never take it seriously," he said. "But then I do—you know, a kid from Canada coming down to New York and hanging out with a hip crowd. But, that makes me feel when you're up in Thunder Bay." Not everyone is impressed, however, when the king of rock rolls into town. Backlash Shaffer confirms that each summer, when he visits his parents, "I still can't get a date."

—GARRY BLACK in New York

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TRANSPORTATION

Troubled crossing

A year ago Britain and France agreed to go ahead with a plan costing an estimated \$19.2 billion to build a railway tunnel beneath the English Channel, bringing an ancient dream closer to reality. But the so-called channel—which is due to open in July, 1993—is plagued by controversy and financial problems. As well, the resignation last month of Lord Penneck, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French consortium in charge of the project, rocked London's financial community.

Eurotunnel plans to build a 64-km two-rail tunnel 43m beneath the seabed for the use of conventional trains as well as shuttle trains. Shuttles travelling at speeds of up to 160 km/h would carry passengers, cars and trucks between Britain and France in 37 minutes, compared with a two-hour journey by ferry and 36 minutes by low-speed rail. But private ferry and hauler operators, together with Conservative MPs and environmentalists, have petitioned the House of Lords to put a stop to the plan. Ferryman and port workers are concerned that they will lose their jobs, while environmentalists argue that the project will increase pollution near the tunnel's entrance on the southeast coast.

But the biggest challenge facing the consortium is funding. Last October it attempted to raise \$4.6 billion by issuing bonds, but the high-risk nature of the shares, coupled with a poor selling campaign, caused investors to turn to more attractive ventures. As a result, the consortium fell short of its goal by \$2.4 million. Eventually, the 15 investors who won the original contract in January, 1986, rescued the sale by making up the difference. But if construction is to start as planned this fall, Eurotunnel will need an additional \$6.1 billion in loans. And in order to secure these loans, it must sell an additional \$1.5 billion in shares by the end of July.

Current chairman Alastair Morton is confident that under his leadership the channel will become a reality, declaring, "My job is to make the program fully funded, viable, underused and misused." Still, the current difficulties demonstrate that permeating the two sides of the channel is a project fraught with uncertainty.

—PAULYNE ROBINSON in London

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boyfriend's jacket
A good joke
The way my new green shoes
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FILMS

Movie magic for the child in everyone

Montreal film producer Rock Demers makes children's movies. But unlike Hollywood, his are oddly lacking in spoonfeeding, messages, rebels as guests. And they are aimed at both young children and mature adults—two groups that adolescent-oriented Hollywood tends to neglect. Despite his unorthodox approach, Demers is one of Canada's most successful producers. His first film, *The Dog Who Stopped the War* (1984), broke box-office records and

movie, but they all conform to Demers's basic guidelines: the leading roles must be played by children 10 to 15 years old, the stories must appeal to audiences of all ages, and the scripts should avoid stereotyping characters as good or evil. Read André Malaga, who directed both *The Dog* and *Rock and Branch* ("Unlike a lot of producers, Rock does not act like a real estate agent. He's a businessman, but he has an artistic vision—and a strong ethical code.")

Trecher and the Shomp Treacher, which director Michael Robbo (Pascal Paquet's son) plans to shoot in Canada, China and Austria. Another project, *The Summer of the Cobb*, is based on a screenplay that arrived unsolicited from Argentina—proof that Demers's reputation is spreading.

A key to the producer's international strategy is his devotion to the delicate art of dubbing. "The language remains a barrier in North America, where English-speaking audiences believe a strong bias against any dubbed film. 'That is a form of protectionism,' said Demers. 'If the dubbing is well done, we should accept it just as we accept a translation of Dostoevsky.'"

Raising rumples and rascals, Demers looks more like a professor than a producer. In fact, after growing up on a farm in southeastern Quebec, he trained to become a teacher. But in 1967 he won a scholarship to Paris to research the educational use of film, TV and radio. He topped his studies with a two-year publishing tour, and whenever he went, from Iran to Japan, he contacted local film-makers.

Returning to Canada in 1968, Demers helped found the Montreal International Film Festival, serving as its director from 1982 to 1987. In the 1990s he became a leading distributor of children's movies. Then, in 1988, he created Les Productions Le Petit, the Montreal-based company that originated *21st* for All.

The father of two grown children, Demers seems to have a paternal concern for humanity. He treats his customers as children, and his international understanding as a symmetrical whole. Two decades ago he crossed the Asian deserts of Baluchistan with his pregnant first wife, Paula, who gave birth to their child, Sam Demersage Robbo, in Japan. His globe-trotting experiences made him realize that the difference between cultures was not as great as it seemed. And Demers: "For centuries we have divided the world into good and evil. If we can make kids understand that reality is not like that, the world might become a more tolerant place."

—SANDRA D. JOHNSON as Treacher



Demers: a Caspian Disney with a discriminating difference, portraying reality as it is

together with his second film, *The Promise* (Beverly Sobotnik 1985), won a total of 18 international awards. His most recent production, *Rock or Branch*, has grossed more than \$1 million in Quebec alone. As its English version, *Rock and Branch*, opens in theatres across the country this week, Demers is emerging as a Canadian Disney with a discriminating difference. "Although my films include fantasy," he said, "I want to portray reality as it is."

At 53, Demers has developed an approach to movie production that is unique in North America. The four movies completed so far belong to an audience deeper plus of 15 feature films entitled *21st* for All. The project is so meticulously organized that Demers never envisioned scripts for rights of them before the first was that these retros.

The style varies from movie to

While bridging the gap between adults and children, Demers has also crossed significant cultural frontiers. In fact, his fourth movie, *The Young Napoleon*, to be released next month, is the first co-production between Canada and Poland. Filmed in Poland with a Polish cast and director, *The Young Napoleon* stars two young English *Montecarlo* with no previous acting experience.

The project originated from a contact between Demers and an exiled Polish film-maker, Krzysztof Zanussi. They first met 38 years ago when a backpacking Demers wandered out of Warsaw's train station and asked directions from a man who turned out to be Zanussi.

With *21st* for All, Demers has become a one-man United Nations of cinematic art. His sprawling film outside *The Great Land of Small*, directed by Czechoslovakia's Václav Jurek, Little Red Riding Hood. Year 2000, directed by Hungary's Maria Mennar, and Young



Legault: Palmett: a harried guardian, a single-minded niece and a pet skunk

Little orphan Fanny

BACK AND BROCCOLI
Directed by André Meloen

A lone on a vast snowy plain, a young girl is staring at a man and a woman appearing, riding two dark horses. Then, as the women stroke one of the animals, the dark magnificently turns into a piano keyboard. That surrealistic opening scene suggests a European art film—but when the girl awakes, the plot that unfolds is as accessible to family audiences as a sitcom wagon on a suburban driveway. *Back and Broccoli*, a French-language film dubbed into English, takes place in a most unsuitable setting—pettinghouse Quebec City. But it plays on familiar childhoods as an orphan, a manager of pets, a cat and a Christmas and a happy ending.

The lead in professor Reel Demers's film for all series of family movies, *Back and Broccoli* (R, rated R) is a fable combining light comedy with heavy sentiment in 11-year-old Fanny, who has lost her parents in a car crash. Custody falls to her uncle Jean-Louis (Raymond Legault), a shy, middle-aged bachelor with a passion for Reel—and apparently little else.

Fanny guards Jean-Louis's obsession with a single-motherhood of her own. After moving into her uncle's home with a pet skunk named Broccoli, she befriends Jean (Harry Miron), the boy next door, and begins to expand her pet collection. Soon, Uncle Jean-Louis's lack

sheel houses a virtual zoo of dogs, cats, hamsters, birds and rabbits. Anxious, Fanny's harried guardian looks for another family to adopt her, but Fanny wants to stay. To soften her uncle's heart, she helps kindle a romance between him and an office colleague, Bernice (André Pelletier). The outcome is as inevitable as the run of maple sap out of a Quebec winter.

Despite the transparent story line, director André Meloen creates a touching drama simply out of images and moments. Art cinematographer Guy Dufrenoy finds exquisite beauty both in human faces and in the crisp winter of Quebec City. In her first acting role, Palmett fills the screen with melancholy and charm. But the movie's intimate close-ups often obscure its characters in the dawning.

Back and Broccoli aims to please both children and parents. Meloen, who directed Demers's 1984 hit-sweet movieball comedy *The Day We Stopped the War*, again shows that he is adept at capturing unperformed young talent. But unlike *Day*, which focused exclusively on youngsters, *Back and Broccoli* concerns the conflict between a child's desire for a family and an adult's love for art. The emotional odds seem unfairly weighed in favor of the child. And despite the movie's mature intelligence, its sweet sentimentality may seduce the young more easily than the old.

—HELEN D. JOHNSON

Voodoo and valentines

ANGEL HEART
Directed by Alan Parker

Even before it opened *Angel Heart* acquired notoriety. Until the film-makers agreed to make a 30-second cut—removing a portion of an explicit scene—U.S. theaters got it as a ratings. But anyway it was one of the best things about the production, why movie it keeps the audience awake despite a muddled plot that cardies but never thunders. Set in the mid-1950s, *Angel Heart* is the story of a Brooklyn private detective, Harry Angel (Mickey Rourke), and his cryptic client, Louis Cyphre (Robert De Niro). Cyphre wants Angel to find Johnny Forrester, an amnesiac singer who owes Cyphre a debt.

Choosing the elusive Forrester in New Orleans, the disheveled, hard-boiled Harry becomes ensnared in voodoo—and several gory murders. In one, the killer viciously mutilates a man; in another, a woman's heart is ripped from her body and left on a table—the still of seductions.

Director Alan Parker, who also wrote the script based on William Hjortsberg's novel *Midnight Angel*, has made a funny, over-the-top. And he employs the same film techniques—the swirl of a dancing light—what he used in his 1979 film, *Midnight Express*. Here, the swirling scenes show Harry's expansive vision of the time and place of Forrester's disappearance. Times Square, 1942. The search for bizarre effects has clearly diverted Parker's attention from his script. By the time the film reveals who in fact Cyphre is, and Harry's subtle relationship to him, its obscurity is liable to spark looks of derision.

Parker seems so concerned with his characters to let them to let with each. Fortunately, many of the performers do not. Rourke, outshines as usual, gives a taut, controlled performance in the amiable Harry. His character is in his ability to seduce. He seduces from people by using warm and charming. But in *Angel Heart*, as Cyphre, walks off with the film. Exorcising his long, perfectly maniacal agenda and speaking in slow, patronizing tones, he is at once menacing and creepy, while also playful—everything, it feels, that *Angel Heart* is not.

—LAWRENCE O'BRIEN



Kaye in Indonesia: 'I got along with kids because I'm not afraid to be a child'

OBITUARY

A kid for all seasons

Whether they watched him on the movie screen or met him in person, children everywhere instantly recognized Danny Kaye as their ally. A man of a thousand faces, the outrageous comedian brought a childlike exuberance to everything he did—from Broadway musicals to Hollywood films, including *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (1947) and *Norma Jeane Baker* (1960). But the man, Isaac-Daniel Kay, who died at 74 in Los Angeles last week of cancer, brought on by lung cancer, to Hollywood films, including *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (1947) and *Norma Jeane Baker* (1960).

A string of cinematic successes followed, including the 1944 musical *White Christmas*, which costarred Bing Crosby. Kay's film output declined in the late 1950s, and he turned to television, hosting the popular *Danny Kaye Show* for four seasons. But increasingly his attention shifted to a different vocation: raising money for UNICEF and a musical pension fund.

His cinematic first celebrity ambassador in 1954 and traveled the globe on its behalf until late last year. Usually he served as a guest speaker, but some of his fund-raising efforts were less orthodox. In 1975, Kay, a licensed pilot, flew the agency's Hawkeye Hawk drive—and managed to get himself into the Guinness record books—by flying a small plane to 66 North American cities in five days.

Harry Kay, executive director of UNICEF Canada, remembers Kay as a generous, if not always compliant, volunteer. Said Kay, "We'd try to give him scripts and package him into time periods, but it never worked. Eventually

a rising star on Broadway. In the 1940s, *Lady in the Dark*, Kay landed audiences with his breath-taking performance of Ira Gershwin's composition. That's how he got his start in show business. Three years later he appeared to raise money in his first film, *Up in Arms*, opposite Bette Davis.

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ly we just let him do whatever he wanted." Much recalls seeing Kaye at an Expo 86 performance last summer in Vancouver, when a young soldier with a flame-thrower began jumping. It's a *Long Way to Tippecanoe*. Kaye sang from his seat and joined the boy in an impromptu duet. "It was then at all," said Kay, "he had an audience of 4,000 people singing."

Although Kaye could not read music, he guest-nodded orchestras around the world to raise money for musical causes. Conceiving a generous idea of music with an impressive sense of fun, he would conduct. First of the *Bandstand* with a few million. Then he gave benefit concerts with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. Said 800 managing director Zavis Melvin: "The musicians said he was better than a lot of professionals."

In contrast to the mild-mannered, explosive drummer he played in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, Kaye seemed able to will himself to accomplish anything. An elegant perfectionist, he was a fine chef—his specialty was Chinese food at home, *Angie's* a major French culinary award. He was also an ardent baseball fan—and part owner of the Seattle Mariners. But the essential Kaye was always the unshakable class clown. Most people grew up and grew old at heart, Kaye stayed resilient—and will remain in memory—the unrepentant child.

—PAMELA YERGEN in Toronto

MACLEAN'S BEST-SELLER LIST

FICITION

- 1 *Witness* of the Gods, Stephen (1)
- 2 *Whitehead, Charles* (1)
- 3 *The Eyes of the Dragon*, R. K. (1)
- 4 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 5 *Shaw, Tom* (1)
- 6 *The Plains of St. Anthony* (1)
- 7 *A Year for Death*, James (1)
- 8 *Delella, Gail* (1)
- 9 *The Telling of Lies*, Fred (1)
- 10 *Bandstand*, Leonard

NONFICTION

- 1 *Do You: The Unsuspected*, Biography of French Cinema, R. K. (1)
- 2 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 3 *Conquering Everest*, Who Were (1)
- 4 *Whitehead, Charles* (1)
- 5 *The Master Builders*, Peter (1)
- 6 *The Fugitive and the Kennedy*, Charles (1)
- 7 *Monstrous*, L. (1)
- 8 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 9 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 10 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 11 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 12 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 13 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 14 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 15 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 16 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 17 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 18 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 19 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)
- 20 *Up in Arms*, Bette Davis (1)

Compiled by Frances Melody

There was no penalty on the play

By Allan Fotheringham

I was seven minutes into the second period in the Regina Aggro on March 1 when 15-year-old Brad Horning of the Regina Pats cut far the net. As he raced toward the Moose Jaw Warriors' goal, he spotted Craig Edwards open in the left and dashed the puck across to him. A lot of hockey players would then wheel away from their check. But Horning was known as a "hunch-bucker" player in the junior Western Hockey League, in that he made up for his lack of talent by his thirst for the game. He is the son of former National Hockey League player Larry Horning and hoped to be picked in this year's NHL draft. ("Daily," five-foot-two and "only" 175 pounds, he was considered small by pro scouts, but they praised his ability to drive for the net.)

Instead of wheeling away from his check, Brad Horning tried to cut behind the net and come around to get back into the play in case of a rebound. That was his style and Troy Edwards of the Moose Jaw team, who had played Horning many times before, knew that was his style. So, from behind, he gave Horning a swift check with his hockey stick, propelling it toward with both hands as you would a barrel!

Brad Horning went headfirst into the boards. His helmeted head snapped back. He was unconscious when he hit the ice. When the team trainer reached him, he discovered the boy had swallowed his tongue and was choking to death. His jaw was locked shut and the trainer couldn't reach into his mouth to yank his tongue back. With the player flat on his back on the ice, with 6,000 fans in the stands suddenly deathly silent, doctors slashed his throat open to be able to breathe and they could recover his tongue. Brad Horning now is in a hospital bed, where he will remain for the rest of his life. His spinal cord, crushed, permanently paralyzed from

Allan Fotheringham is a columnist for Southern News.

the neck down, needing a respirator to help him breathe. There was no penalty on the play.

What's responsible? Simple. The callous moose who own and run the National Hockey League. They are the greedy jerks who have taken the game which the Soviets and the Czechs will never have to play in its pure form and have turned it into a vulgar derby—since they have determined that fans like violence. Troy Edwards is not to blame. He has been taught since he-high to cross-check from behind, since referees never call



at anymore—the referees hired by hockey's Establishment.

Take the man! Take the man! Howie Meeker screams from the TV set each Saturday night, admonishing some poor fool who tried to play the puck instead, in the strange assumption that the puck is supposed to be the main object in hockey.

Troy Edwards took the man and now we've got yet another paralyzed 18-year-old. He is not the first, and he won't be the last so long as the millionaires set the pattern for the game at the top for the boys who want to graduate there. Brad Horning was taught that you had to cut for the net and Troy Edwards was taught that cross-checking from behind was okay. Between 1976 and 1983, 42 players in Canada suffered spinal injuries. Of the 42, 17 suffered full paralysis below the point where the backbone was injured. Most of the injuries came when the players were

"checked" from behind or hit the boards. Their median age was 13.

The other day, the outstanding Chris Chabon of the Montreal Canadiens, a large defenceman, delivered the same familiar shopping cross-check with the stick to Rick Middleton of the Boston Bruins, one of the more skillful players in the NHL. Middleton plowed into the boards and was carried off bleeding with a concussion. There was no penalty called.

The press teach well. In the first period, Moose Jaw's Pat Benaschene slashed Regina's Chris Benaschene, who played with a spear to the stomach. Later, Regina's Mark Jeannotte slashed Warrior goalie Glen Seymour, who retaliated with a butt-end to the head. Regina's Gregg Nisell hooked Thurston Fleury of Moose Jaw around the neck with his stick and brought him down. Clippy said!

John Ziegler, the tame president of the NHL, is a jerk, a tame policy of the owners who encourage the violence by not curbing it. It's not as if the players don't have the skills to play the game properly. As the superb two-game series at the superb Borden-Vaux in Quebec City showed, Canada's best matched against the Soviet Union's best can produce exquisite hockey. The Soviets play with the puck, an odd concept, and force our guys to play with it too.

The figures are clear in almost every major league in the country. The kids are not going into the game in the same numbers, simply because size is what counts and any big 12-year-old can mangle any average 12-year-old. The "magic" mark is the junior Western Hockey League in six feet, and Brad Horning, at only five feet, was considered too small by the pro scouts. The pros want them big and fast and mean—to fit into the pattern that patry Ziegler's owners order him to tolerate.

Oh yes. After the 40-minute delay while the "nerves/body" had been packed off and the blood scraped off the ice in Regina, the Moose Jaw Warriors won, 6-3.



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